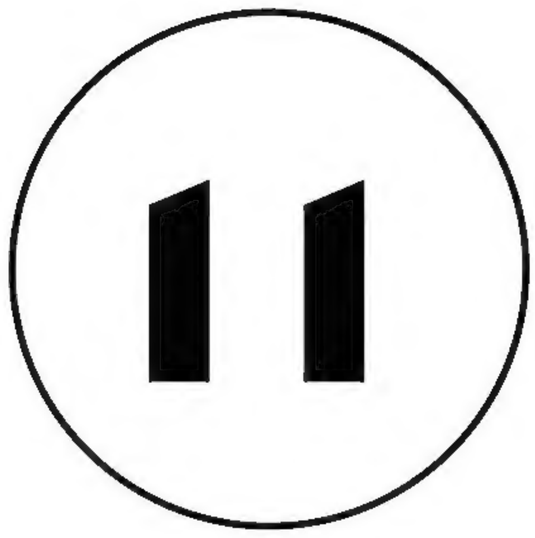
SUZUKA



Kouji Seo

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY

David Ury

LETTERED BY

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BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

A Note from the Author

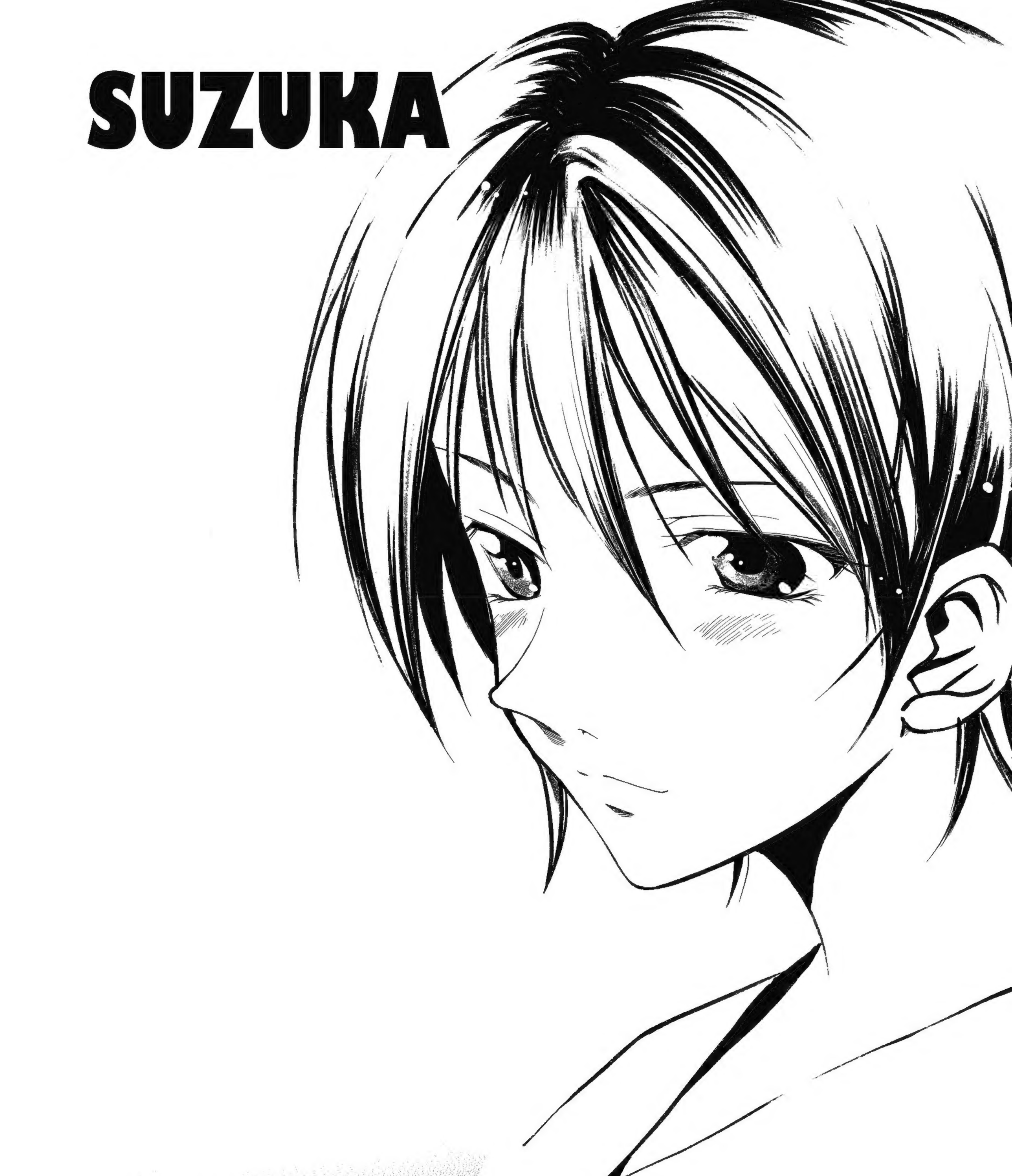
AT LAST, SUZUKA HAS MADE IT TO ITS SECOND ANNIVERSARY! WE MADE IT THIS FAR ONLY BECAUSE OF ALL YOU LOYAL SUZUKA READERS OUT THERE. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THE SERIES WILL LAST, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST, SO I HOPE YOU'LL KEEP READING!!

11

SUZUKA

KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA



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Kouji Seo

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SO... HERE WE ARE!

I ASKED YAMATO TO COME ALONG SINCE HE'S BEEN FEELING SO LONELY. HIS GIRLFRIEND WENT OFF TO A TRAINING CAMP!

...

Y-YEAH, MAYBE HE DID.

I-I DID NOT.

REALLY? ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T JUST GET DUMPED RIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE?

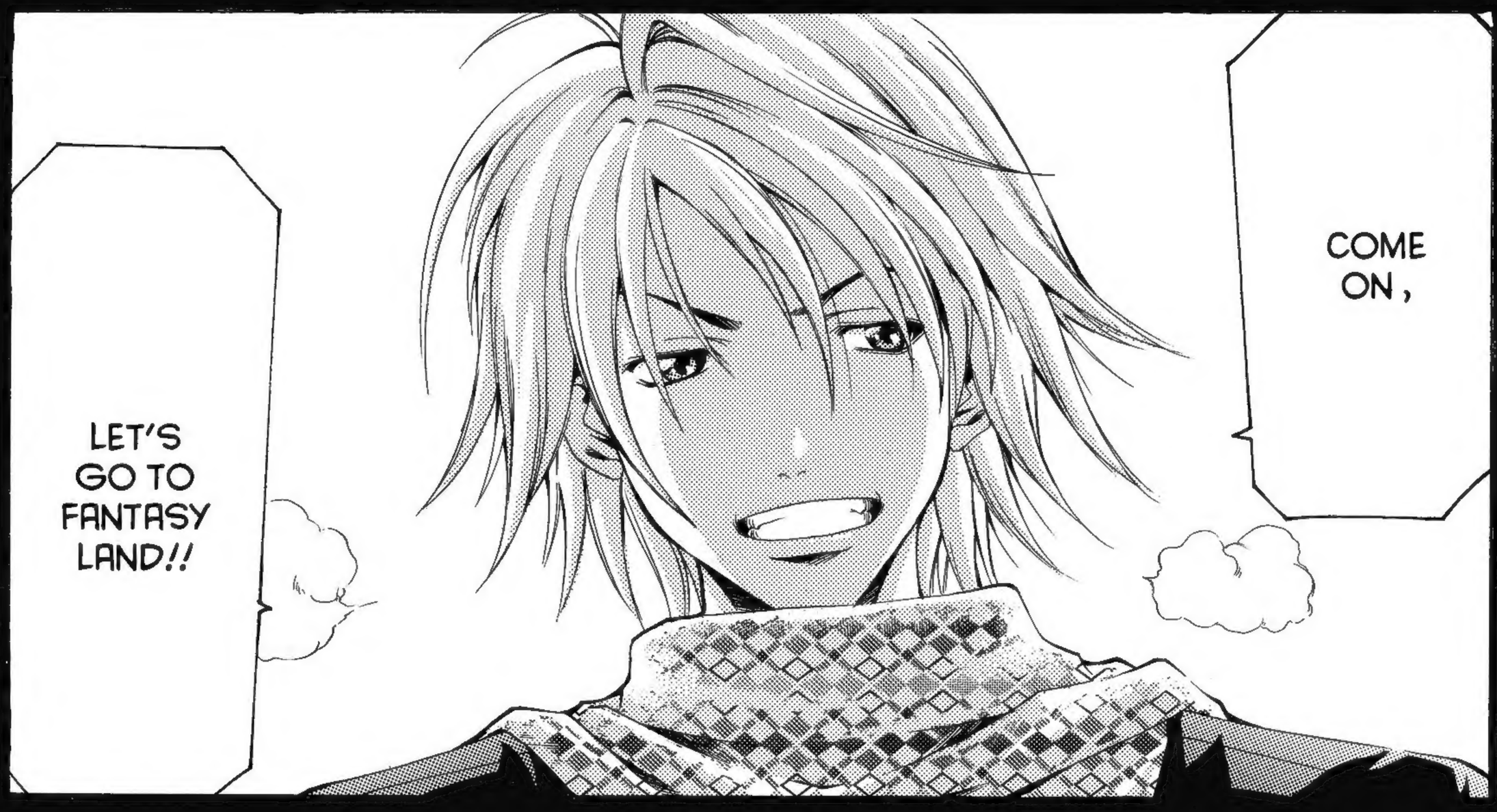
YOU MADE UP WITH HER, DIDN'T YOU?

WHAT...?

EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW, RIGHT?

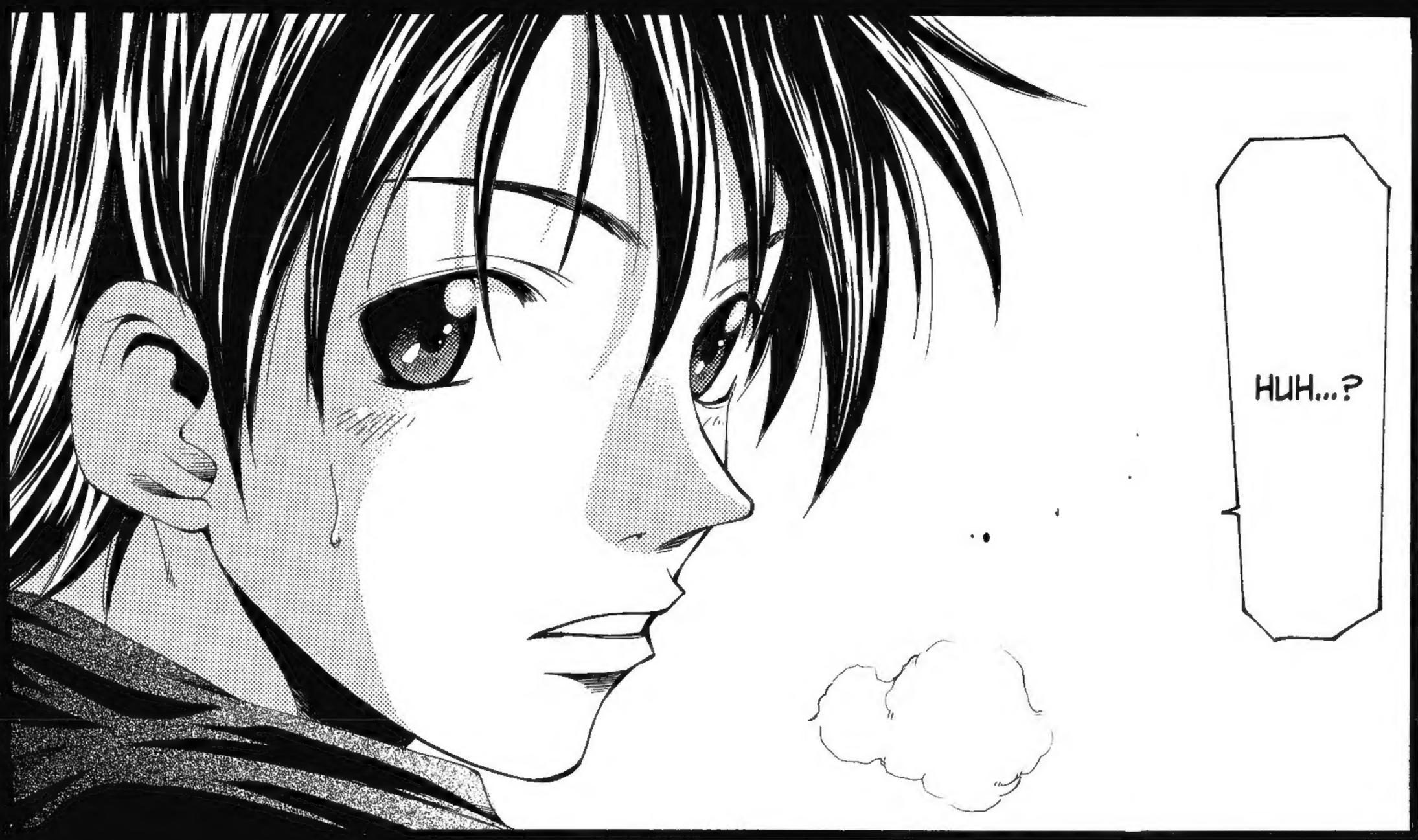
HEY GUYS, QUIT STANDING AROUND. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

AH... SORT OF...



SUZUKA

#88 Getting Closer



CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

YEAH, WELL, IT IS CHRIST-MAS, YOU KNOW?

GEEZ. IT'S SO CROWDED.

THIS PLACE BRINGS BACK ALL SORTS OF BAD MEMO-RIES.

BUT...

I HAD NO CHOICE. THE GIRLS WANTED TO COME HERE!

SLUMP!!

WHY THE HELL DID WE HAVE TO COME HERE OF ALL PLACES... ARE YOU TRYING TO POUR SALT ON MY WOUNDS OR SOMETHING?

SHE ALSO TOTALLY DUMPED ON ME HERE...

ASAHINA AND I HAD OUR VERY FIRST DATE HERE...

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS A DATE, I MEAN, I'M NOT CHEATING ON HER OR ANYTHING...

SHOULD I REALLY BE *HERE*... DOING *THIS*?

GRIN ニコ!!

YOU LOOK... WORRIED.

WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S NOTHING.

N-NO...

OH, REALLY?

SH-SHUT UP. WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT!?

WHAT...?

I DON'T KNOW... I JUST NEVER HAD MUCH LUCK WITH THIS PLACE...

THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE IT RAINED.... AND...

HUH...? WELL... IT'S JUST THAT...

WHAT AM I SAYING...? WE ALL CAME HERE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME AND I'M RUIN-ING IT...

I-I'M SORRY...

WHA!?

YANK

.....

UH-HUH...

AH...

A-ALL RIGHT...

WELL, HOW ABOUT WE GET BUSY AND START MAKING SOME GOOD MEMORIES FOR YOU.

THEN I'LL FORGIVE YOU FOR TRYING TO RAIN ON OUR PARADE!

YEAH. WE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, SO...

Y-YEAH! THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!!

S-SORRY.

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, YOU IDIOT!

GLARE

EVERY-BODY'S ALREADY IN LINE!

COME ON, HURRY UP!

I GUESS SHE'S RIGHT.

ALL RIGHT...

I'VE GOTTA QUIT SULKING AND START ENJOYING MYSELF.

HEH HEH. THAT'S THE SPIRIT, YAMATO-KUN!

DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF TOO HARD.

ALL RIGHT. I'M GONNA GO ON EVERY SIN-GLE RIDE THERE IS.

WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO HAVE FUN.

OKAY!

ALL RIGHT. THAT'S IT FOR TODAY, EVERY-BODY!

Yuli

I'M SO SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY. I MISSED YOUR CALL AND THEN I TOTALLY FORGOT TO BUY A CAKE...IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!! PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY!! I'M REALLY SORRY!!

END

OKAY, FINE. I GUESS I SHOULD JUST...

001 YAMATO AKITSUKI

.....

~~

D-DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

WHY DON'T YOU SHUT YOUR FREAKIN' TRAP?

ISHI

FWAP

HEY, YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED CLEANING UP YET.

SHI

QUIT SLACKING OFF!

WHY'D YOU EVEN BOTHER COMING HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

SHI

. . . . . .

NISHI

HMMPH...

FWOOSH

YEAH, MY FEET ARE SORE FROM WALKING ALL DAY.

MAN, THAT WAS SO MUCH FUN.

EXACTLY.

SOMETHING TO DO? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU HAVE ANOTHER DATE LINED UP OR SOMETHING?

WAAH

WAAH

WE'D BETTER HEAD ON HOME. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO AFTER THIS, SO...

YEAH, RIGHT? THAT SOUNDS PRETTY SUSPICIOUS, TOO.

.....

WHAT? I-I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!

N-NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!!

MY GRANDPA IS REALLY SICK!! I'M NOT KIDDING!!

UH-HUH, WELL, WHATEVER. I'M CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH MY FAMILY TONIGHT ANYWAY...

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SO QUIET.

WHAT...?

WHAT...? NO, NOT REALLY...

DO YOU HAVE PLANS AFTER THIS, TOO, YAMATO-KUN...?

UMMM...

CLOP

WHY?

W-WELL.

WOULD YOU MIND...

...HANGING OUT WITH ME A BIT LONGER?

WHAT...?

OH...NO, NO!! I DON'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT...

UH...

BUT...

O-OH...

PLUP

I JUST THOUGHT THAT AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE...

HURRY UP.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING? C'MON, WE'RE LEAVING.

WE MIGHT AS WELL CATCH THE NIGHT PARADE BEFORE HEADING BACK.

I CAN'T EITHER...

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? I CAN'T STAY, BUT...

THE NIGHT PARADE?

HEY. I WANNA WATCH THE NIGHT PARADE BEFORE I GO HOME.

SEE YOU GUYS LATER! DON'T STAY OUT TOO LATE.

H-HEY!!

SORRY, YUI.

NO, IT'S OKAY. TAKE CARE.

I HAVE AN IDEA! WHY DON'T YOU STAY WITH HER, YAMATO. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO ANYWAY.

W-WHAT?

.....

NO, IT'S...

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU DO THIS...

...EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.

SO YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TELL YOUR GIRL-FRIEND, OKAY!?

BUT, REALLY...I JUST WANNA SEE THE PARADE, AND THEN I'LL GO HOME...

ACTU-ALLY...

...I DID SEE IT, BUT...

BESIDES, YAMATO-KUN. YOU SAID IT RAINED THE LAST TIME YOU CAME HERE...

SO I BET YOU DIDN'T GET TO SEE THE PARADE, RIGHT?

UH...

O-OKAY...

COME ON! LET'S GO WATCH IT.

IT'S REALLY PRETTY.

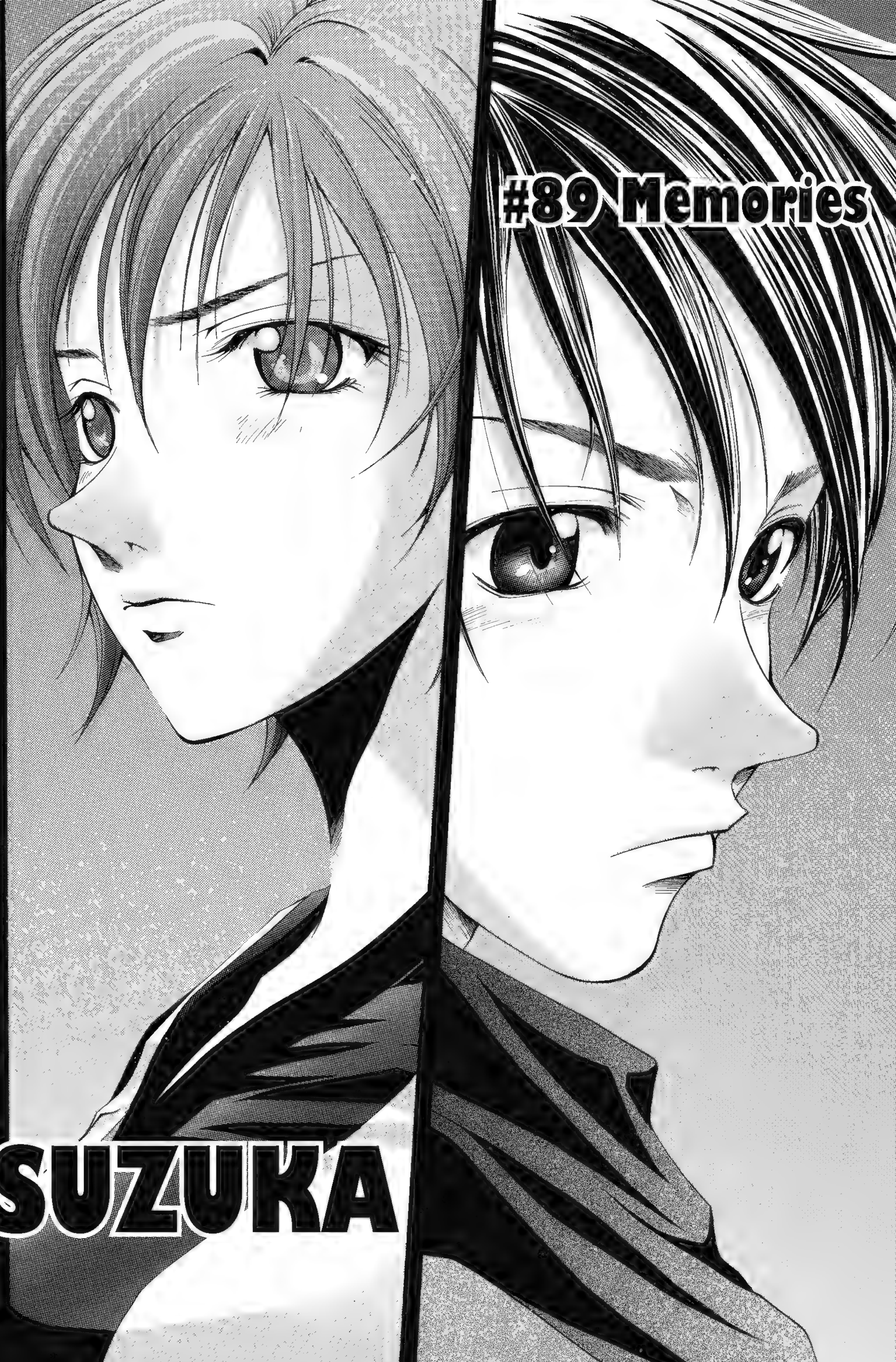
SH- SHOULD I BE DOING THIS?

I MEAN... THIS COULD GET OUTTA HAND...

H-HEY... WAIT, YUI-CHAN!

COME ON, HURRY! IT'S STARTING!

#89 Memories



WOO

WOO

LOOK! LOOK! ISN'T IT PRETTY!

WOW! IT'S SO AMAZING!!

ドーン

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

WOO

WOO

SEE? AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU STAYED?

YEAH...I GUESS.

WOW. ACTUALLY IT IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING IT THIS CLOSE UP.

IT'S REALLY PRETTY...

BUT WHEN YOU'RE THIS CLOSE, YOU CAN REALLY SEE HOW DIRTY THEIR COSTUMES ARE.

DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT. YOU'RE RUIN-ING THE MOOD!

HA HA, SORRY.

HEY, YAMATO-KUN.

WHAT...?

WHAT HAP-PENED?

YOU SAID THAT YOU NEVER HAD ANY LUCK WITH THIS PLACE...

I'M JUST...

...CURIOUS, THAT'S ALL.

UH... WELL... IT'S...

I KNOW IT RAINED WHEN YOU WERE HERE LAST TIME, BUT THAT DOESN'T RE-ALLY EXPLAIN WHY YOU HATE THIS PLACE SO MUCH.

WELL... UH...

.....

I GOT DUMPED ON HERE.

...AFTER I TOLD A GIRL I LIKED HER.

WHAT!?

IT'S JUST THAT... THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.

REALLY!? ARE YOU SERIOUS!?

AH... YEAH... IS IT REALLY THAT SURPRISING?

I CAME HERE LAST YEAR, AND THIS GUY I LIKED TOTALLY SHOT ME DOWN.

HE SAID HE WAS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE...

I MEAN, THIS IS SUCH A FUN PLACE, YOU KNOW!

BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANNA LET THAT ONE BAD MEMORY RUIN THINGS FOR ME.

HUH? THEN WHY DID YOU COME HERE AGAIN...?

SO...I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE GOOD MEMORIES OF THIS PLACE EITHER.

...THAT I'D HAVE TONS OF FUN TODAY, AND FORGET ABOUT THE PAST.

SO I DECIDED...

HEH HEH. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.

HUH? SO... I GUESS WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT.

YOU'VE GOT A REALLY GREAT ATTITUDE, YUI-CHAN...

WE WERE PRETTY GOOD FRIENDS AND WHEN I ASKED HIM TO COME HERE WITH ME, HE SAID YES WITHOUT EVEN HESITATING.

AT THE TIME, I WAS PRETTY SURE HE'D WANNA GO OUT WITH ME.

THAT'S JUST HOW IT WAS WITH ME.

AH...! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN!!

UH-HUH.

WHEN THEY ACT LIKE THAT, IT TOTALLY MAKES YOU THINK THEY FEEL THE SAME WAY YOU DO.

WE FOUGHT A LOT AND...

...SHE CAN BE TOUGH TO GET ALONG WITH SOMETIMES, BUT SHE HAS A SOFT SIDE, TOO...

I THINK I'M FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU.

LET GO.

THE TRAIN RIDE HOME WAS SO AWKWARD. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO EACH OTHER.

YEAH. BUT WHEN I TOLD HER HOW I FELT, SHE GOT ALL COLD.

YEAH, TOTALLY

WOO

WOO

AND YOU START TO WISH YOU'D JUST TAKEN A DIFFERENT TRAIN.

OH, I HATE THAT. IT FEELS LIKE THE RIDE TAKES FOR-EVER WHEN STUFF LIKE THAT HAP-PENS.

YEAH.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

THE NEXT DAY SHE WOULDN'T EVEN TALK TO ME AT SCHOOL.

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD SUDDENLY START HAT-ING HER JUST BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANNA GO OUT WITH ME.

JUST BECAUSE YOU GET DUMPED ON ONCE, DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP HOPE!

BUT...

I JUST COULDN'T GIVE UP ON HER.

EVEN THOUGH I KNEW SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE...

I EVEN TRIED TELLING HER I LIKED HER A SECOND TIME, BUT SHE JUST DUMPED ON ME AGAIN.

IF YOU LIKE SOMEONE, THEN THERE'S NOT MUCH YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.

BUT IN THE END...

I FINALLY GOT TO BE WITH HER!

WHAT...

WOW!

THAT'S REALLY AMAZ-ING!!

Y-YOU MEAN THAT'S THE GIRL YOU'RE SEEING NOW!?

Y-YEAH...

THEN, I REALLY AM GLAD TO HEAR EVERY-THING'S OKAY.

WHAT...?

.....

I MEAN, YOU MADE UP WITH HER, RIGHT?

.....?

YOU DIDN'T...?

NOT...

...YET.

WHAT...!?

B-BUT YOU SAID...

...YOU'RE RIGHT...

...I SHOULDN'T BE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE WITH ME THEN!?

YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS.

I'VE GOTTA GO FIND HER...

...RIGHT NOW!

GO TO HER...

...YEAH

I'M REALLY SORRY...

NOW THIS PLACE ISN'T JUST FULL OF...

...BAD MEMORIES.

NO, I HAD FUN.

YEAH.

.....

ALL RIGHT, TAKE CARE.

I'M REALLY SORRY! I'VE GOTTA GO!!

YAMATO-KUN HAS A MUCH MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE THAN I DO.

HE AND I...

...ARE TWO TOTALLY DIF-FERENT PEOPLE...

CHATTER

CHATTER

THE PARADE IS OVER.

...THAT I GOT TO WATCH IT WITH SOMEONE SPECIAL THIS YEAR.

BUT, I REALLY AM GLAD...

FWAHHH

SUZUKA

#90 True Feelings

WELL, HERE I AM...

NOW WHAT DO I DO...?

OH, I DON'T MIND SO MUCH.

THIS IS SO SAD. I MEAN, WE SHOULD BE SPENDING CHRISTMAS EVE WITH OUR BOYFRIENDS, YA KNOW?

AH... OKAY.

ASAHINA-SAN, WOULD YOU MIND CLOSING THE CURTAINS?

WHAT THE-?

I-IT'S NOTHING!!

SCHWICK

WHAT'S WRONG?

SHE CLOSED THE CUR-TAINS...

FLAP FLAP FLAP

ヒョオオ

HYUU

……

GUESS SHE'S TRYING TO TELL ME TO GO HOME.

I CAN'T REALLY BLAME HER. I MEAN, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT AND THEN I SHOW UP OUT OF THE BLUE.

STEP

STEP

HEY...

AH... ASAHINA!

WHAT...

I... JUST...

...WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOU'RE EMBAR-RASSING ME...

AH... THIS IS FOR YOU!!

I BROUGHT YOU SOME CAKE!!

FANTASY LAND

WHAT!?

...WANTED TO KNOW...

...HOW YOU'RE TRAIN-ING WAS GOING...

ピク!!

PLINK

UH...

I BOUGHT IT OUTSIDE OF FANTASY LAND...

HUH, UH, I DON'T KNOW... THAT'S WEIRD...

DRIP 9"

DRIP 9"

WHY DO YOU HAVE CAKE FROM FANTASY LAND?

NTASY LAND

WHAT...!?

AH... OKAY...

I DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO SEE US TOGETHER.

LET'S GO SOME-WHERE.

TSSSSWAAA

FANTASY LAND

UH-HUH

AND THEN YOU FELT GUILTY, SO...

YOU DECIDED TO COME OUT HERE?

N-NO THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS...

I MEAN...

SO HATTORI-KUN ASKED YOU TO COME ALONG AGAIN AND YOU JUST HAD NO CHOICE...

YEAH...

...BUT TO GO OUT WITH THAT SAME GIRL WHO WAS ALL OVER YOU THE OTHER NIGHT....AND THEN YOU TWO WATCHED THE PARADE TO-GETHER...?

YEAH...

SO, I WENT TO THE THEME PARK HOPING IT WOULD TAKE MY MIND OFF OF EVERY-THING....

I THOUGHT I WOULD GO CRAZY IF I STAYED HOME...

I WAS WORRIED BECAUSE YOU NEVER REPLIED TO ME!

AND I DIDN'T WANT THIS TO BE THE END OF US.

BUT WHILE I WAS THERE, I KEPT THINKING ABOUT YOU...

WHAT...

DO YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT STORY!?

SO... I JUST FELT LIKE I REALLY NEEDED TO SEE YOU.

THAT'S NOT TRUE!!

YOU JUST WANTED TO SEE THAT GIRL, DIDN'T YOU?

OKAY, LET'S JUST SAY THAT I DID BELIEVE YOUR STORY!!

I DON'T EVEN THINK OF HER LIKE THAT...

AND SHE JUST WANTED TO HANG OUT, THAT'S ALL!!

I'M...

...SORRY.

THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!!

YOUR BULLSHIT APOLO-GIES ONLY MAKE ME EVEN MORE MAD!!

WHAT GIRL WOULDN'T BE PISSED AFTER FINDING SOME CHICK HANGING ALL OVER HER BOYFRIEND.

AND AS IF THAT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, YOU GO OUT WITH HER AGAIN?

I WAS WORRIED TOO, YOU KNOW!!

YOU THINK I'M HAPPY?

I HATE THAT ABOUT YOU!!

I'M SICK OF IT.

...AND YOU ALWAYS JUST GO ALONG WITH WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY...!!

YOU'RE ALL TALK...

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU!!?

JESUS, ARE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING TO ME?

WHAT...

I'M SORRY... I KNOW.

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR HATING ME.

.....!

.....

ASAHINA...

STING

THE REASON I'M SO ANGRY...

...IS BECAUSE I CAN'T HATE YOU...!

BUT...

I CAN'T JUST FORGIVE YOU EITHER.

DRIP

I CAN'T HATE YOU...

DRIP

SNIFF

AH...I'M SORRY...

I'M REALLY SORRY...!

.....

I'LL NEVER BULLSHIT YOU EVER AGAIN!

AND I'LL NEVER MAKE YOU CRY AGAIN... SO PLEASE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY.

TSSSSWAAA

THOSE EMPTY WORDS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

WELL, THEN, LET ME SMACK YOU AS HARD AS I CAN.

OTHERWISE I'M GONNA EXPLODE.

WHAT...

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.

A-ALL RIGHT...

ALL RIGHT, HERE IT COMES.

HYAA

ARE YOU SURE...? I'M REALLY GONNA HIT YOU HARD, YOU KNOW?

I'M NOT GOING EASY ON YOU THIS TIME.

O-OKAY. GO AHEAD...

SWUP

URRRMMMPH

.....!!

WHAT...

WHA-!?

SMACK

YOU'RE SO USED TO GETTING HIT NOW THAT...

I HAVE TO COME UP WITH SPECIAL SNEAK ATTACKS OR IT WON'T EVEN AFFECT YOU.

IT HURTS MORE WHEN YOU'RE NOT EXPECTING IT.

STEP

AH...

WHA-!?

HUH?

TALK ABOUT THE CARROT AND THE STICK...

WOW...

I'M SORRY...

DO YOU REALLY GET WHAT I'M SAYING?

I DO!! I'M REALLY SORRY!!

I WAS ABOUT TO FORGIVE YOU, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WENT TO FANTASY LAND.

CAN'T YOU HANDLE BEING ALONE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS?

.....

OKAY...

I'M SORRY...

FINE, I'LL FORGIVE YOU, BUT...

I DIDN'T KNOW...

...THAT ASAHINA LOVED ME SO MUCH...

SHOCK

HUH? NOW WHAT...?

AH...

AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL...

DON'T EVER MAKE ME CRY AGAIN... OKAY?

WHAT...?

TH-THANKS, BUT I'D PREFER ONE ON THE LIPS.

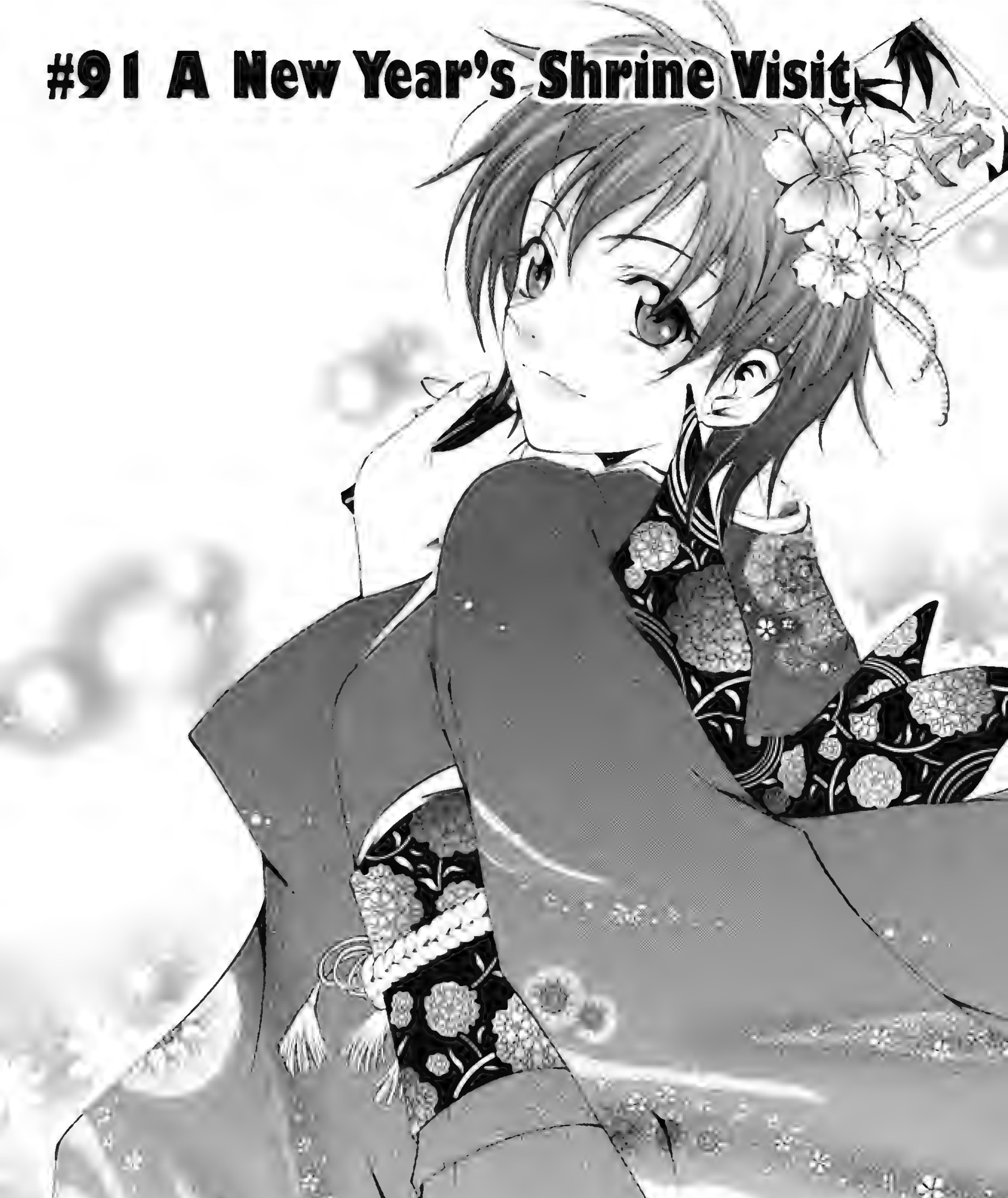
WHAT...? DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, PAL!

I'LL WHOOP YOUR BUTT!!

THAT'S JUST MY WAY OF SAY-ING...

...THANKS FOR COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.

#91 A New Year's Shrine Visit



SUZUKA

AH... OKAY. SORRY...

ASAHIYU BATHS

HEY, YAMATO-KUN, LET GO! I CAN'T TAKE YOUR CARD!

IS THAT REALLY YOU, YUUKA-SAN?

MAN...

YOUR PARENTS MUST BE REALLY STRICT, YUUKA-SAN.

I HAD TO RE-DYE IT BLACK. IF MY DAD SAW ME WITH MY HAIR BLEACHED, HE'D KILL ME.

YOU TOTALLY WENT FROM WHITE TO BLACK.

CHATTER

CHATTER

SHE SHOULD KEEP HER HAIR LIKE THAT, DON'T YOU THINK, GORO-CHAN?

IT LOOKS BETTER BLACK ANYWAY.

MEOW

W-WHAT...?

WILL YOU STOP STARING AT ME...?

SHIT!! YOU JUST PICKED MY JOKER.

AH... I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.

FLIP

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WAIT-ING FOR!!

NEW YEAR'S EVE TOSHIKOSHI NOODLES.

HERE YOU GO.

PLUNK

THESE NOODLES ARE TOO THIN.

FWIP

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT IT? THEY LOOK LIKE THE SAME KIND MY MOM ALWAYS MAKES.

SORRY. THIS IS TOKYO-STYLE SOBA.

HEY... AYANO-SAN. THESE SOBA NOO-DLES LOOK DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I USUALLY EAT BACK HOME.

AH! THAT'S WHAT WE EAT AT MY HOUSE, TOO. IT'S COUNTRY STYLE.

OUR SOBA IS THICKER AND FIRMER.

I-I JUST HAPPEN TO PREFER THE NIGHT BUS, THAT'S ALL!

WHY ARE YOU SO CHEAP? WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE BULLET-TRAIN?

YEAH. I'M TAKING AN OVERNIGHT BUS TO-NIGHT.

PLUNK

HEY, YOU'RE FROM AKITA PREFECTURE, RIGHT SAOTOME-SAN? ARE YOU GOING HOME FOR NEW YEARS?

SO YOU'RE FROM THE BOONIES LIKE ME?

DON'T MAKE FUN OF THE COUNTRY!!

HEHEH

THE NIGHT BUSES ARE MORE CONVENIENT FOR SAOTOME-SAN, BECAUSE SHE LIVES WAY OUT IN THE BOONIES, RIGHT?

OH...ARE YOU A FAN, MIHO-CHAN?

AH, LOOK! NANA IS ON THE KOOHAKU SHOW THIS YEAR.

I LOVE YOU, MY LOVE FOR YOU!

WAA

I CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU, YEAH, MY HEART SKIPS A BEAT...

WAA

YEAH! SHE'S SO CUTE AND SHE'S A GOOD SINGER, TOO.

I WENT TO KARAOKE WITH HER ONCE, YOU KNOW?

WHAT!?

STOP TALKING SMACK, YOUR NOODLES ARE GETTING COLD.

SEE, YOU'RE SO FULL OF SHIT.

IT'S TRUE. RIGHT, ASAHINA?

YEAH, RIGHT.

YOU'RE SO FULL OF IT.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I'M SORRY.

YOU'RE FORGET-TING GORO-CHAN.

MEOW.

FWAHH

IT'S NICE TO HAVE COM-PANY ON NEW YEAR'S EVE FOR A CHANGE.

ASAHIYU BATHS

HEY, AYANO-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY SAR-DINES?

WE'VE GOT TO EAT SOME TO WARD OFF THE EVIL SPIRITS.

YOU'RE SUP-POSED TO DO THAT ON THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING.

WELL, AT MY HOUSE WE EAT THEM ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, TOO!!

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN JUST MIHO AND ME.

FWAHH

OH NO, I'M GONNA BE LATE.

WE'VE GOTTA GET GOING NOW.

OH, JUST LEAVE YOUR DISHES THERE.

THANKS FOR THE NOODLES!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

WELL, HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT? YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO BE GOING OUT THIS LATE.

OH, YEAH... I HAVE TO GET READY FOR OUR NEW YEAR'S SHRINE VISIT. MY FRIENDS'LL BE HERE SOON.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME YOU TWO.

SEE YA.

THUMPA

THUMPA

I'M COMING AND THAT'S THAT!!

WHAT? NO WAY! YOU WANNA EMBARRASS ME TO DEATH?

YOU KNOW WHAT, I'LL JUST COME ALONG.

ARE YOU SURE? THIS AREA'S BEEN GETTING MORE AND MORE DANGEROUS... I'LL BE WORRIED SICK IF YOU GO OUT.

I'LL BE FINE. I'M GOING WITH A BUNCH OF PEOPLE.

HUSH

MAYBE WE SHOULD GO OUT AND DO OUR NEW YEAR'S SHRINE VISIT, TOO, HUH?

WELL...

S-SUDDENLY IT'S ALL QUIET.

YEAH.

YEAH...

LET'S GO!

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

YEAH. UNTIL LAST YEAR, I ALWAYS USED TO GO TO TSURUOKA HACHIMANGU SHRINE WITH MY FAMILY.

DO YOU VISIT A SHRINE ON EVERY NEW YEAR'S, ASAHINA?

WOW. I DIDN'T KNOW THE TRAINS RAN THIS LATE.

CLICK
CLACK

YEAH, I USED TO DO NEW YEAR'S SHRINE VISITS WITH MY FAMILY BACK HOME, TOO. THERE WAS ALWAYS LOTS OF SNOW AND IT WAS ALWAYS FREEZING.

IT'D BE PITCH BLACK, AND THERE'D BE HARDLY ANYBODY OUT...

I THINK THEY RUN ALL NIGHT ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

AND WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TALK UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT. SO WE ONLY SPOKE A LITTLE BIT?

THE NEXT STOP IS HARA-JUKU.

PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP AS YOU EXIT THE TRAIN.

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TALK, BUT YOU DID ANY-WAY. HOW LAME.

WELL, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP QUIET FOR THAT LONG.

YOU HAVE TO DO CHARADES EVERY TIME YOU WANNA SAY SOME-THING...

ザワ CHATTER

ザワ CHATTER

ザワ CHATTER

WOW!! LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE. WHAT THE HELL?

IT'S LIKE THIS EVERY-WHERE ON NEW YEAR'S.

R-REALLY...? WOW. TOKYO REALLY IS AMAZING.

COME ON, LET'S GO.

QUIT STAND-ING AROUND.

CHATTER

CANDY APPLES

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN SHINTO GODS AND STUFF LIKE THAT.

WELL, I DON'T. BUT I KIND OF LIKE THIS WHOLE ATMO-SPHERE.

BESIDES, I WANTED TO MAKE A SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S PRAYER THIS YEAR.

I-I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE FOR A SEC THERE.

I GOT HIT BY SO MANY OFFER-ING COINS.

HAHH

HAHH

YOU'RE SUCH A WUSS. THAT WAS NOTHING.

OH YEAH?

IS IT ABOUT THE TRACK TEAM?

STEP 9

IT'S A SECRET!

HEY, WAIT UP! WHERE'D YOU GET ALL THIS ENERGY?

ハイテンション

HEY, LET'S GO CHECK OUT THE STREET VENDORS. THERE'RE TONS OF 'EM.

WHAT...?

WHAT'S WRONG?

CHATTER

CHATTER

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE A GIRLFRIEND IN TOKYO AND I'D GET TO DO STUFF LIKE THIS WITH HER.

WELL...IT'S JUST THAT, I NEVER WOULD'VE IMAGINED THIS A YEAR AGO.

HUH? OH... SORRY, IT'S NOTHING.

ARE YOU SURE...? YOU WERE TOTALLY SPACING OUT...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'RE SO WEIRD.

YAMATO-KUN...

SO I WAS JUST WONDER-ING... WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT YEAR?

LIKE, WILL WE STILL BE TOGETHER OR...

WHEN DID YOU...

...FIRST FALL FOR ME, YAMATO-KUN?

STEP

HEY... CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

WHAT IS IT...?

W-WHEN...? I GUESS WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU...

I FELT LIKE SOME-THING INSIDE ME JUST CLICKED.

WHAT...?

REALLY...?

YAKITORI

ちょっとォ!!

BECAUSE YOU WERE ACTING LIKE A TOTAL PERVERT IN THE BATHS AND THEN YOU BROKE THAT WALL IN MY ROOM.

YOU WERE TOTALLY CLUELESS AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GO SHOPPING?

I REALLY HATED YOU...

...WHEN WE FIRST MET.

WHAT!? ARE YOU SERI-OUS!?

...YEAH

OH...

HOCO 特刻

I-IS IT... WHEN I STOOD UP FOR YOU IN FRONT OF ARIMA?

HUH...

SO... WHEN DID YOUR FEELINGS CHANGE?

OH...I KNOW! WHEN I FIRST KISSED YOU IN THE PARK, RIGHT...?

NO, BEFORE THAT!

ス

FWUMP

!!

.....

HUH...?

I KNOW IT'S LATE, THIS IS YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

I WAS GOING TO MAKE YOU A SWEATER, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME.

OH...AH... WELL...DO YOU WANT TO USE MY SCARF NOW!? YOU'LL FREEZE WITHOUT ONE!!

OKAY, THANKS.

HERE::

FLAPPA

!!

WHAT...?

I GUESS IT'S THE SAME FOR ME THOUGH... IT STARTED THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.

EVEN THOUGH I TOTALLY HATED YOU.

I JUST FELT SOME-THING...

かみどり

大人

AND, OF COURSE I WORRY ABOUT IT, TOO, YOU KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT YEAR EITHER.

R-REALLY...?

I-I HAD NO IDEA...

SQUEEZE

THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE.

SO I COULD PRAY THAT WE'LL STILL BE TOGETHER NEXT YEAR.

OH...

ASAHINA...

WELL, THAT'S ONE PRAYER THAT'S SURE TO BE ANSWERED.

WHAT...? HOW DO YOU KNOW?

...I PRAYED FOR THE SAME THING.

BECAUSE...

OH...

.....

DONG

NO WAY... WHAT IF I GET AN UNLUCKY ONE.

LET'S TEST OUR LUCK OUT AND GO BUY A PAPER FORTUNE...

...TOGETHER!

DING

PLUNK

HAAA

. . . . . .

I DON'T KNOW... SHE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE SHE CAME BACK FROM VISITING HER HOMETOWN...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YUUKA-SAN...?

PLUP

SIGH...

ASAHIYU BATHS

SIGH

I KNOW...

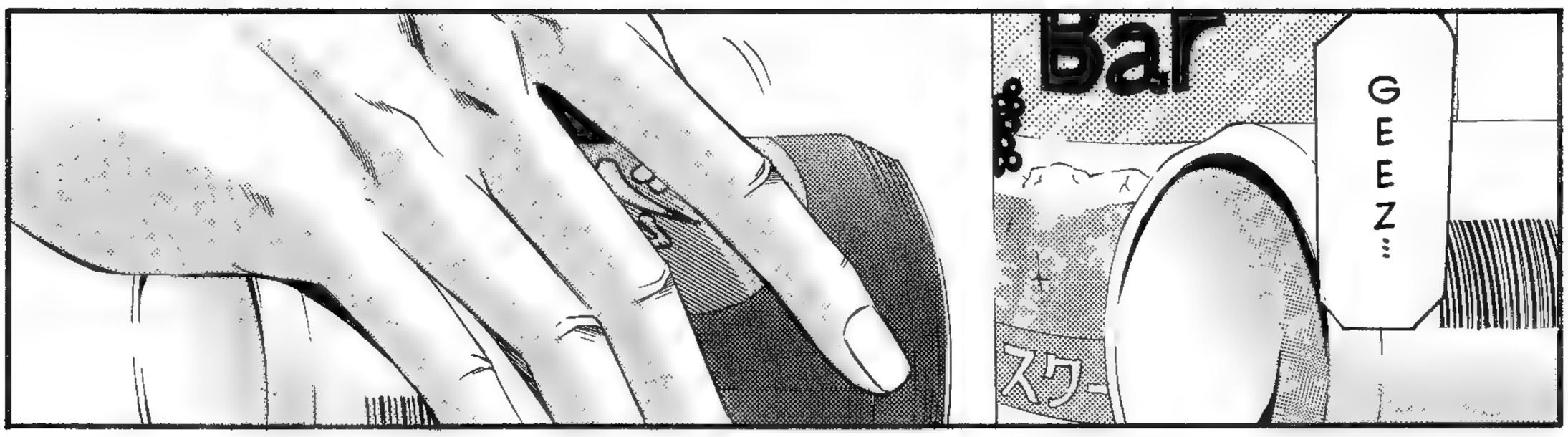
IT JUST DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT.

SHE HASN'T CHANGED HER HAIR COLOR BACK YET.

SUZUKA

#92 Senpai

ASAHIYU BATH


Bar
GEEZ...

I SHOULD ASK ASAHINA IF SHE WANTS TO GO SOME-WHERE.
SCHOOL STARTS TOMORROW AND HERE I AM WASTING MY LAST DAY OF FREEDOM CLEANING UP AFTER HER. THIS SUCKS.
EVEN WHEN SHE'S ACTING WEIRD, SHE STILL POUNDS DOWN THE BOOZE...
カリ!!
CLANK
LOOK AT ALL THIS TRASH SHE LEFT BEHIND...I CAN'T BE-LIEVE SHE'S ACTUALLY IN COLLEGE.
ガチャ
CLICK
WHAT...?

AH...

UH... YEAH, I GUESS...

WELL... N-NO, UM...

SURE IS A NICE DAY, ISN'T IT!?

ASAHIYUBA

...YUUKA-SAN.

WHAT? DID YOU FORGET SOME-THING?

IT'S SO NICE OUT IT MAKES ME WANNA GO SHOP-PING.

.....?

WHY DON'T YOU GO THEN?

GRRIP

AH...!

SORRY. I'M KINDA BUSY.

. . . . . .

I'M TOTALLY FREE TODAY. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. HOW 'BOUT I LET YOU CARRY MY BAGS FOR ME.

AH! SUZUKA-CHAN.

CLICK ガチャ

HEY, YAMATO-KUN. WHAT ARE YOU YAKKING ABOUT?

YEAH, REAL TEMPTING, BUT... I'VE GOT PLANS, SO...

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE GONNA LET A FRAGILE LITTLE LADY LIKE ME CARRY A BUNCH OF HEAVY BAGS ALL BY HERSELF!?

FRAGILE LITTLE LADY? YEAH, RIGHT!

NO WAY. YOU DON'T WANT ME GOING OUT SHOP-PING WITH ANOTHER GIRL, DO YA?

HEY, CAN I BORROW YAMATO-KUN JUST FOR TODAY!? HE CAN BE MY PORTER!!

I HAVE SOME STUFF TO DO TODAY ANYWAY.

GO AHEAD.

THERE. YOU'VE GOT PERMISSION, NOW GO GET READY.

AH... ASAHI...

SLAM

WELL, HAVE FUN, YAMATO-KUN.

HUH? WHAT THE HELL—!

THANKS! THIS'LL REALLY HELP ME OUT.

NO PROBLEM. I KNOW HE'S IN GOOD HANDS IF YOU'RE WITH HIM, YUUKA-SAN.

COME ON. MOVE IT!! TIME IS MONEY.

WHA—? SHE ALWAYS GETS PISSED WHEN I HANG OUT WITH OTHER GIRLS. WHY'S SHE COOL WITH IT NOW?

CLOP
CLOP
SO... WHERE THE HELL ARE WE GOING ANYWAY, BOSS?
COUGH COUGH
AH- AH- AAHHH!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
?
HUH? GO WHERE?
LET'S GO, YAMATO-KUN...!
GLARE
OKAY!

IT'S NOT EVEN A SHOP.

THAT'S JUST A SPORTS-WEAR COMPANY'S OFFICE BUILDING...

I SEE. DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT?

AH...YES, FOR ONE O'CLOCK...

AH...EXCUSE ME. I'D LIKE TO SEE MR. SASAOKA FROM THE SALES DE-PARTMENT, PLEASE.

SCHWIP

AH...! HEY, YUUKA-SAN!!

ARE YOU SURE WE'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE!?

AN AP-POINT-MENT...?

WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING HERE...? WAIT... WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

UHH... WHAT'S GOING ON, YUUKA-SAN...?

CLOP

CLOP

LISTEN UP, YAMATO-KUN...

...YES.

WHA—!? WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT.

NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY ASKS YOU WHILE WE'RE IN HERE, JUST ANSWER YES.

IF YOU SAY ANYTHING STUPID I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU. I'M NOT JOKING EITHER, GOT IT?.

GRRRRROOWWWLLLL

CLOPPA

CLOPPA

!?

SORRY.

SE...

...SEN-PAI...!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

THANKS FOR COMING OUT TO SEE US TODAY. I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY BUSY. I REALLY AP-PRECIATE YOU MAKING TIME FOR HIM!!

YOINK

YOINK

WHAT!?

HUH!?

IT'S NO PROBLEM! AND YOU CAN STOP CALLING ME "SENPAI." IT SOUNDS WEIRD.

SHALL WE SIT DOWN SOMEWHERE AND HAVE A CUP OF TEA!?

I'M SASAOKA FROM THE ADIREX SALES DEPART-MENT.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

RESTAURANT

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE!!?

QUIT SLOUCH-ING AND SIT UP STRAIGHT.

AH... OH... I'M YAMATO AKITSUKI.

NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.

WHAT!?

IT LOOKS MUCH BETTER LIKE THAT.

W-WELL, OF COURSE. I'M NOT A SILLY LITTLE KID ANYMORE, YA KNOW.

.....!?

WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER. I CAME BACK FROM THE STATES TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S HERE, AND WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS.

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOUR HAIR IS BLACK AGAIN.

GEEZ, DROP THE "CHAN," WILL YOU!

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. YOU REALLY HAVE GROWN UP, YUUKA-CHAN.

AH...!!

BLINK

GEEZ. WHAT ARE YOU DOING? CONTROL YOUR-SELF!

GWAHH!!

SLAM

SLAM

I GET IT!! THIS MUST BE THE GUY YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT. THE ONE WHO KEPT TURN-ING YOU DOWN, RIGHT?

I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, REMEM-BER?

SISORRY...

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

HA, HA, HA, YOU'RE FUNNY.

HEH...

STOMP

HOW CAN YOU NOT REMEM-BER? YOU'RE SO RUDE.

YOU BEGGED ME TO BRING YOU HERE.

SHUT!

SO...WHY EXACTLY AM I HERE TODAY...?

WHAT?

SO THAT YOU COULD RUN EVEN FASTER!!

YOU WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT GETTING A PAIR OF CUSTOM-SPIKED SHOES...

.....

NUDGE NUDGE NUDGE

OH YEAH...OF COURSE...I DID SAY THAT!! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!!

WHAT...?

I SAID THAT...?

YOU RUN THE 100-METER RIGHT? HAVE YOU BEEN IN ANY COM-PETITIONS YET?

WELL...I GUESS I COULD MAKE A PAIR FOR YOU...AS A FAVOR TO YUUKA-CHAN OF COURSE...

I-I SEE...

AH... YES. I DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE I.H., BUT...

I GOT INTO THE SEMI-FINALS AT THE TOKYO DISTRICT PRELIMI-NARIES.

CLINK

I MEAN...

WELL... I'M NOT SURE HOW TO PUT THIS...

AH... YEAH.

I KNOW...

OF COURSE, FIRST-CLASS ATHLETES DO USE THEIR OWN CUSTOM SHOES...

BUT CUSTOM-MADE SHOES REALLY WON'T IMPROVE YOUR RECORD BY TWO SECONDS OR EVEN A SECOND. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

YOU ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE EASY WAY OUT!!

NOW DO YOU GET IT!? IF YOU WANNA RUN FASTER, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TRY PRACTICING HARDER!

WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY IS IT'S A LITTLE EARLY FOR A THIRD-RATE ATHLETE LIKE YOU TO START TALKING ABOUT GETTING CUSTOM-MADE SHOES.

WHY THE HELL IS SHE YELLING AT ME?

AH... ALL RIGHT...

I'M SORRY...

HOW ABOUT THAT, YAMATO-KUN?

TELL YOU WHAT, IF YOU MAKE IT INTO THE INTER-HIGH COMPETITION, I'LL MAKE YOU A PAIR!

MAKING CUSTOM-MADE SHOES FOR HIM WOULD JUST BE A BIG WASTE.

BOW

BOW

I'M SO SORRY, SENPAI.

I TRIED TO TELL HIM, BUT HE JUST WOULDN'T LISTEN!

WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, YUUKA-CHAN.

I GET IT... I'M JUST AN EXCUSE FOR HER TO COME SEE THIS GUY.

UH... ALL RIGHT.

IT'S KINDA WEIRD TO SEE HER LIKE THIS.

ANY-WAY...

YUUKA-SAN ACTUALLY HAS A REALLY CUTE SMILE...

...WHEN SHE'S WITH THE GUY SHE LIKES.

CLOPPA

CLOPPA

H-HEY, YUUKA-SAN...

YES?

.....

I MEAN, HE STILL CALLS ME 'YUUKA-CHAN'...

SIGH... TO HIM, I MUST LOOK LIKE I'M STILL JUST A LITTLE KID.

UH...I DON'T KNOW...

DOES SASAOKA-SAN HAVE A...GIRL-FRIEND?

.....

OH...

I MEAN...

WELL ANYWAY, AT LEAST IT WAS ENTER-TAIN-ING TO WATCH.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

I'D BE WAY TOO SCARED TO EVEN ASK.

"I'M NOT A SILLY LITTLE KID ANYMORE, YA KNOW."

"W-WELL, OF COURSE.."

. . . . . !!

!!!!!

BLUSH

WAA

NO! STOP!!

PLEASE! I FINALLY MADE UP WITH HER!!

WAA

ACTUALLY... MAYBE I'LL SEND ONE RIGHT NOW!!

I'LL SEND SUZUKA-CHAN EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THOSE LITTLE MOV-IES I TOOK OF YOU.

I-IF YOU EVER REPEAT THAT TO ANYONE, YOU'RE DEAD MEAT. UNDER-STAND?

WHAT ABOUT ME ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIM ANYWAY?

IZAKAYA 'KENBISHI'

I'M SICK OF THIS CRAP!!

!!

POKE

HOW ABOUT WORRYING ABOUT ME FOR A CHANGE?

I'M PRETTY POPULAR AMONG THE COLLEGE BOYS, YOU KNOW!?

PEOPLE SAY I LOOK REALLY MATURE, TOO!!

SO WHY DOES HE STILL TREAT ME LIKE A LITTLE KID!?

THUNK

UH-HUH, UH-HUH. HEY, WHY DON'T WE HEAD HOME...

ASAHINA IS PROBABLY START-ING TO WORRY...

.....

YOU'RE LUCKY YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND. YOU COULD NEVER UNDER-STAND.

POKE

POKE

CAN WE PLEASE JUST GO HOME...

JUST A MOMENT, MA'AM.

HEY, WAITER. WHERE'S MY SAKE?

SUZUKA

SUZUKA

#93 The Kid

料理
NO WAY! MY FEET HURT!!
CAN'T YOU WALK BY YOUR-SELF?
スナックバー
カラオケ
IT'LL BE MORNING SOON!!
COME ON, HURRY IT UP!!
インターネットカフェ
カフェ
2F
SH-SHUT UP!
SQUISH
JUST KEEP WALKING! DO YOU FEEL MY BOOBS PRESSING AGAINST YOU?
GEEZ. AND YOU CALL ME A "KID"?
A HA HA. AWW, AM I EMBAR-RASSING YOU? YOU'RE SUCH A KID.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVEN'T SQUEEZED SUZUKA'S BOOBS ALREADY.
I HAVEN'T!!
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU FEELING SICK?

...KID, HUH...?

SO, I'M THE...

WELL...

...

HOW DO YOU AND SASAOKA-SAN...

...KNOW EACH OTHER?

WHAT...?

...TWO YEARS AHEAD OF ME IN SCHOOL.

WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE. HE WAS...

FIVE YEARS EARLIER...

WOO

WOO

WHY'S SHE ALWAYS HANGING AROUND HERE? GO HOME, GIRL!

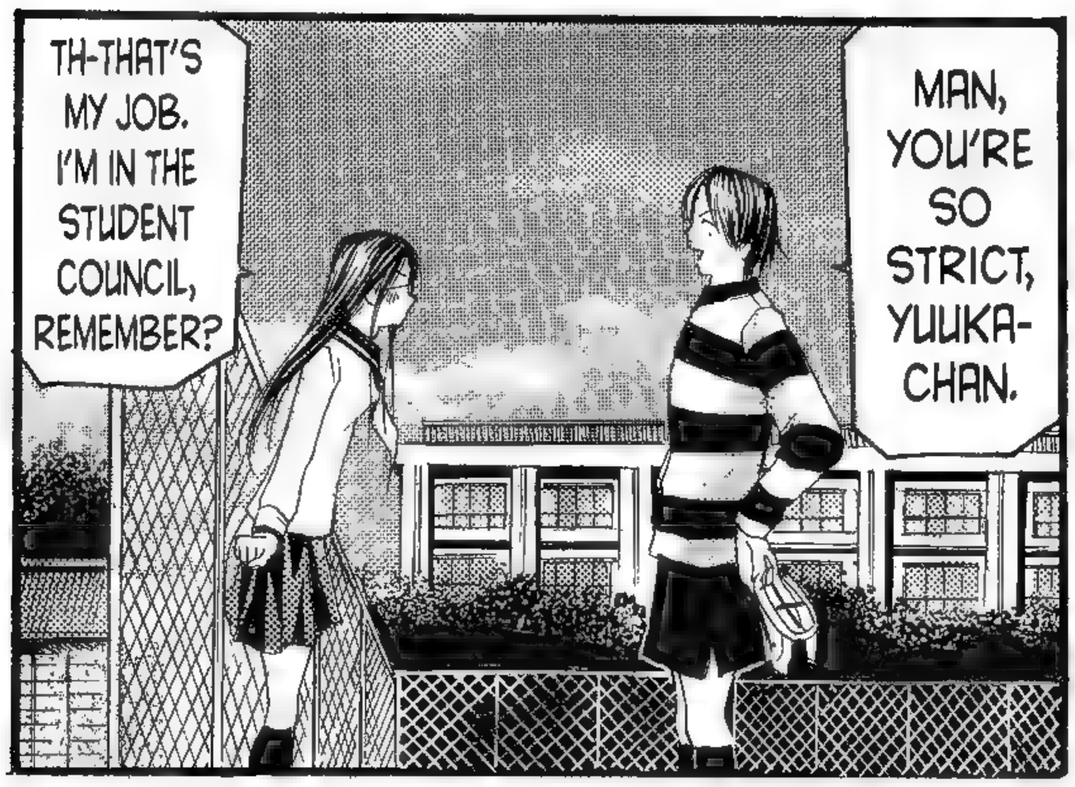
HUH? THAT CHICK'S HERE AGAIN. WHAT WAS HER NAME? SAOTOME OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

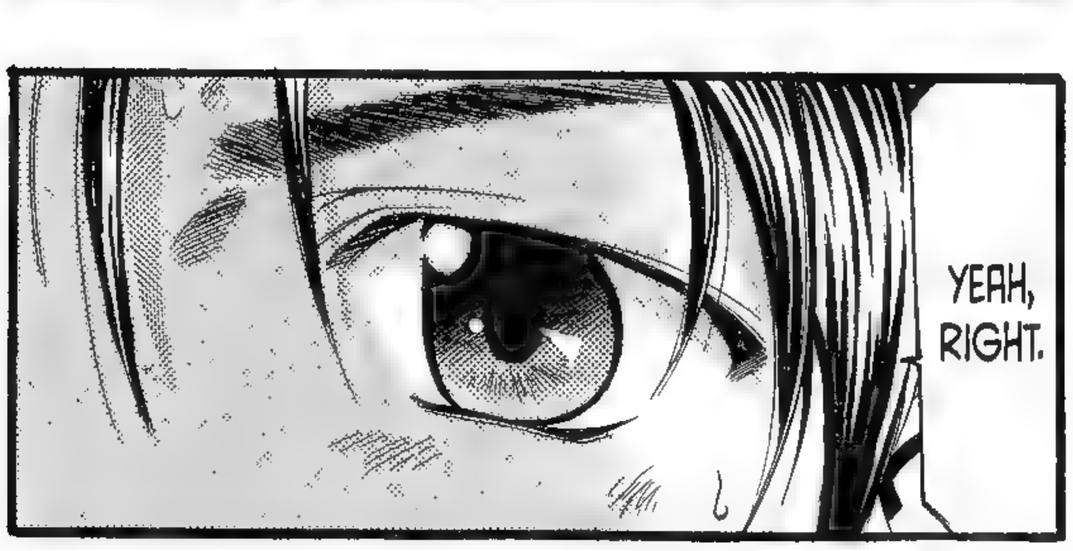
BUT CAP-TAIN...

GIVE HER A BREAK. THIS IS HER JOB.

STEP

IF YOU WAIT A LITTLE LONGER I CAN TAKE YOU HOME, YUUKA-CHAN..
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HANG-ING AROUND AT SCHOOL THIS LATE. IT'S NOT SAFE.


TH-THAT'S MY JOB. I'M IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL, REMEMBER?
MAN, YOU'RE SO STRICT, YUUKA-CHAN.


YEAH, RIGHT.

S-STOP CALL-ING ME THAT...
WOULD YOU GUYS JUST HURRY UP AND GO HOME? THE SCHOOL'S SUPPOSED TO BE CLOSED.

YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT, BUT I BET THE TRUTH IS, YOU JUST LIKE ONE OF THE GUYS ON THE RUGBY TEAM. RIGHT?

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!

T-THAT'S NOT...

...TRUE!!

HE AL-WAYS TREATED ME LIKE A CHILD...

NEVER ONCE DID HE SEE ME AS A WOMAN.

GIVE ME A BREAK. I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE YOU WERE A KID.

I KNOW EVERY-THING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!

2F
ZA/ZA
1F
ZA/ZA
AND SO...
HUH?
I'D LIKE A PERM TODAY, PLEASE...
WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR USUAL TRIM?
ACTUALLY...
AH, YA KNOW, I THINK THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.
YOU GOTTA CHANGE THINGS UP ONCE IN A WHILE OR LIFE GETS BORING.
LET ME JUST GET READY, AND...

YEAH...?

.....

AH... WAIT A MINUTE...!

ALL RIGHT...

NEVER MIND... SORRY, GO AHEAD AND START...

...MAYBE HE'D FINALLY NOTICE ME.

I WAS HOPING THAT IF I JUST MADE A LITTLE CHANGE...

CLOPPA CLOPPA CLOPPA CLOPPA

DING DONG DING DONG

WHAT...?

S-SENPAI!

OH, HEY? DID YOU NEED SOME-THING?

WILL THIS DO IT FOR YOU...?

UH...

...? WHAT IS IT? IS IT SOMETHING THAT'S HARD TO TALK ABOUT?

AH... UH... I JUST...

YOU WANT ME TO TALK TO SOME GUY ON THE RUGBY TEAM FOR YOU, RIGHT?

OH... I GET IT!

SO... WHO IS HE?

I'LL MAKE IT REAL NATURAL.

JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!

WHAT...!? NO!!

. . . . . .

H-HEY.

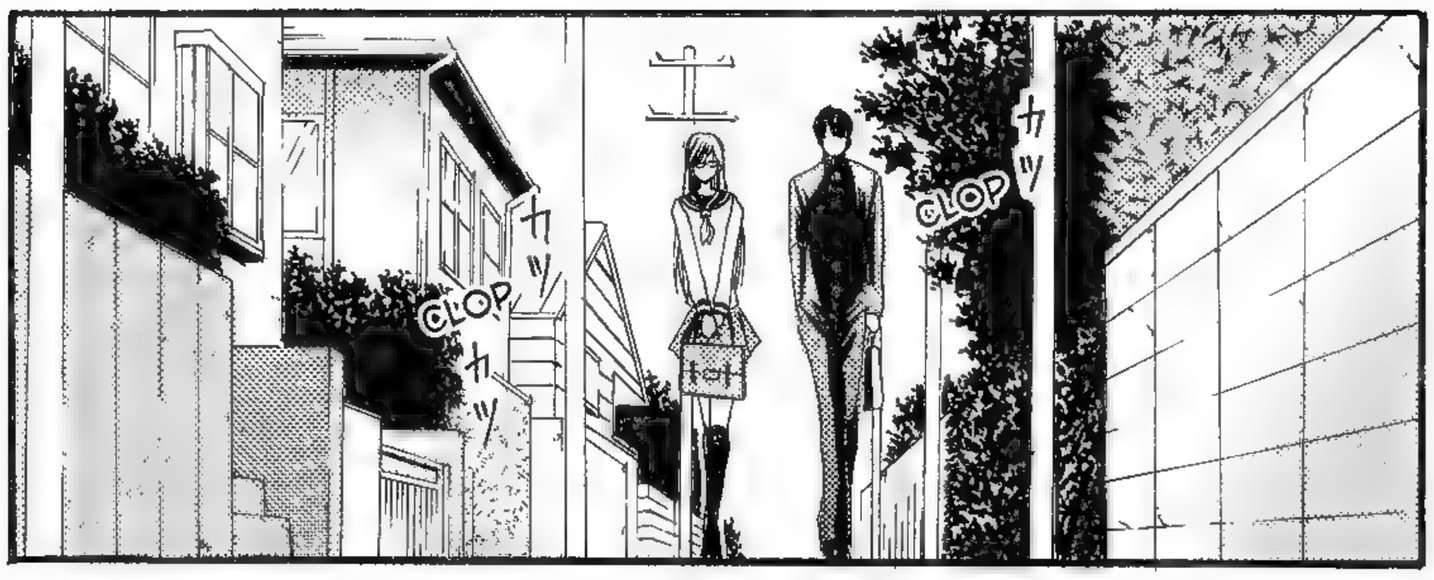
FWOOSH

NEVER MIND!!

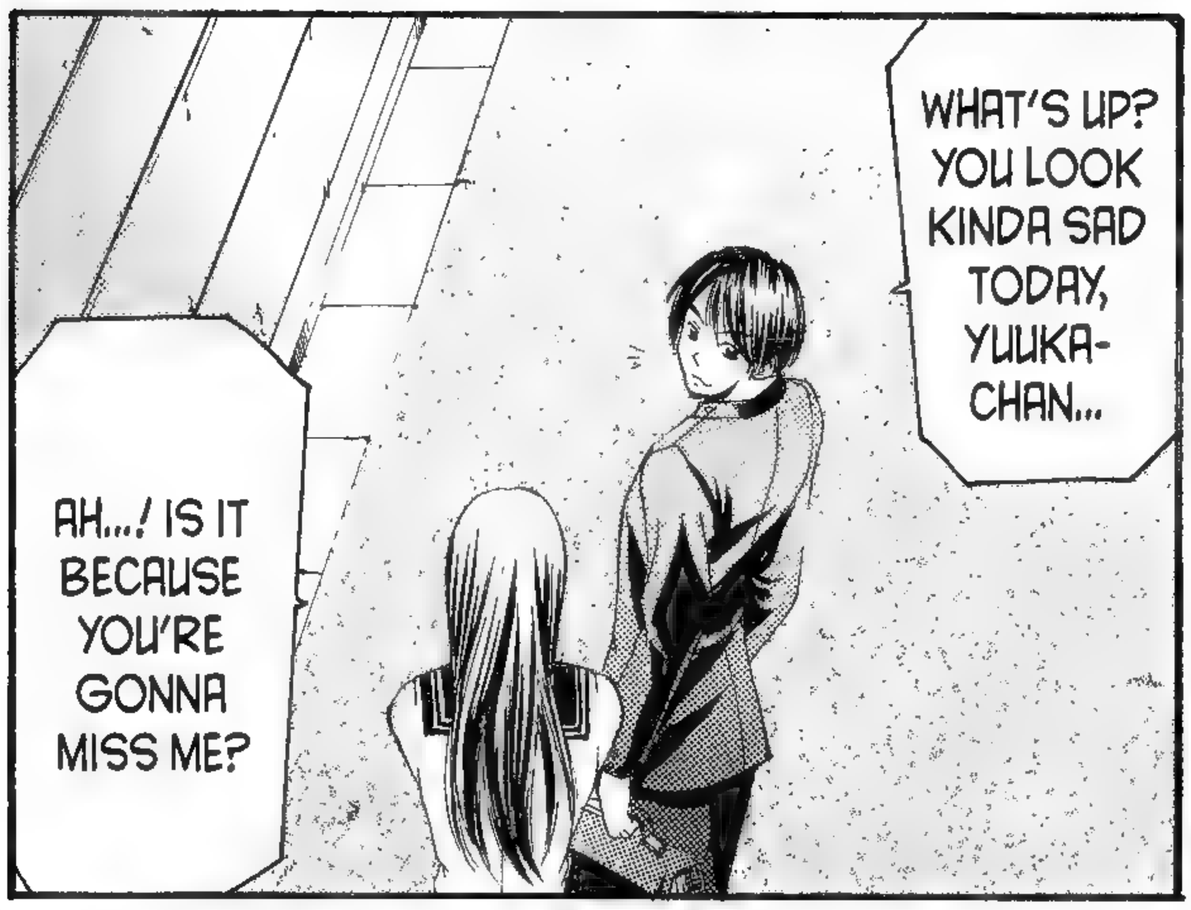
DON'T WORRY, IT'S COOL. I THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA.

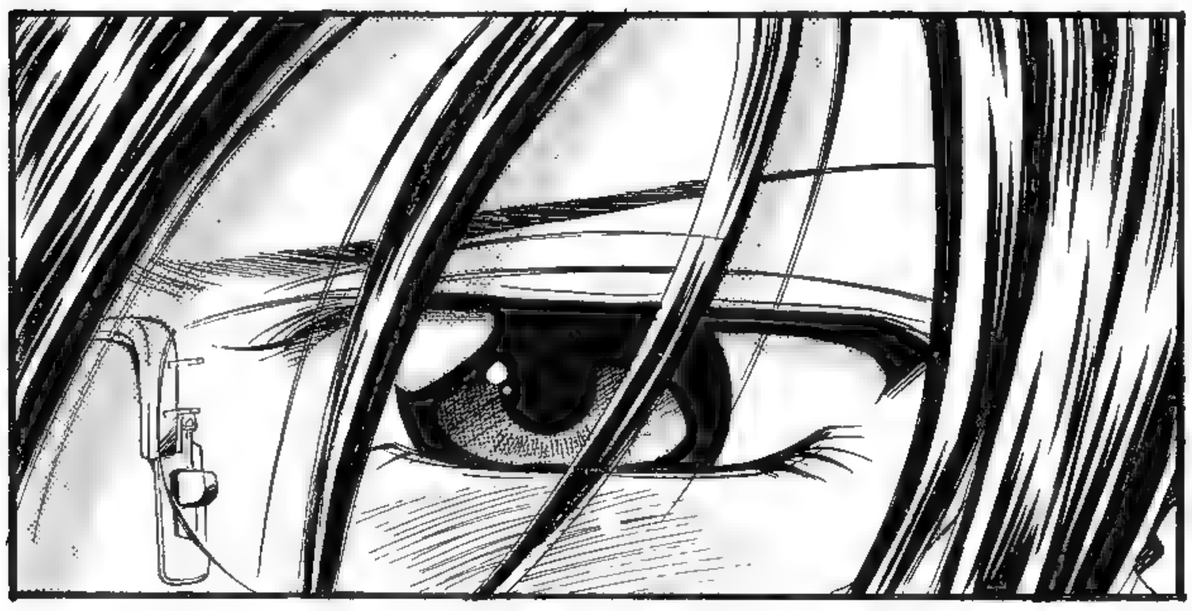
I TRIED TO TELL HIM OVER AND OVER AGAIN, BUT IT ALWAYS ENDED LIKE THAT.

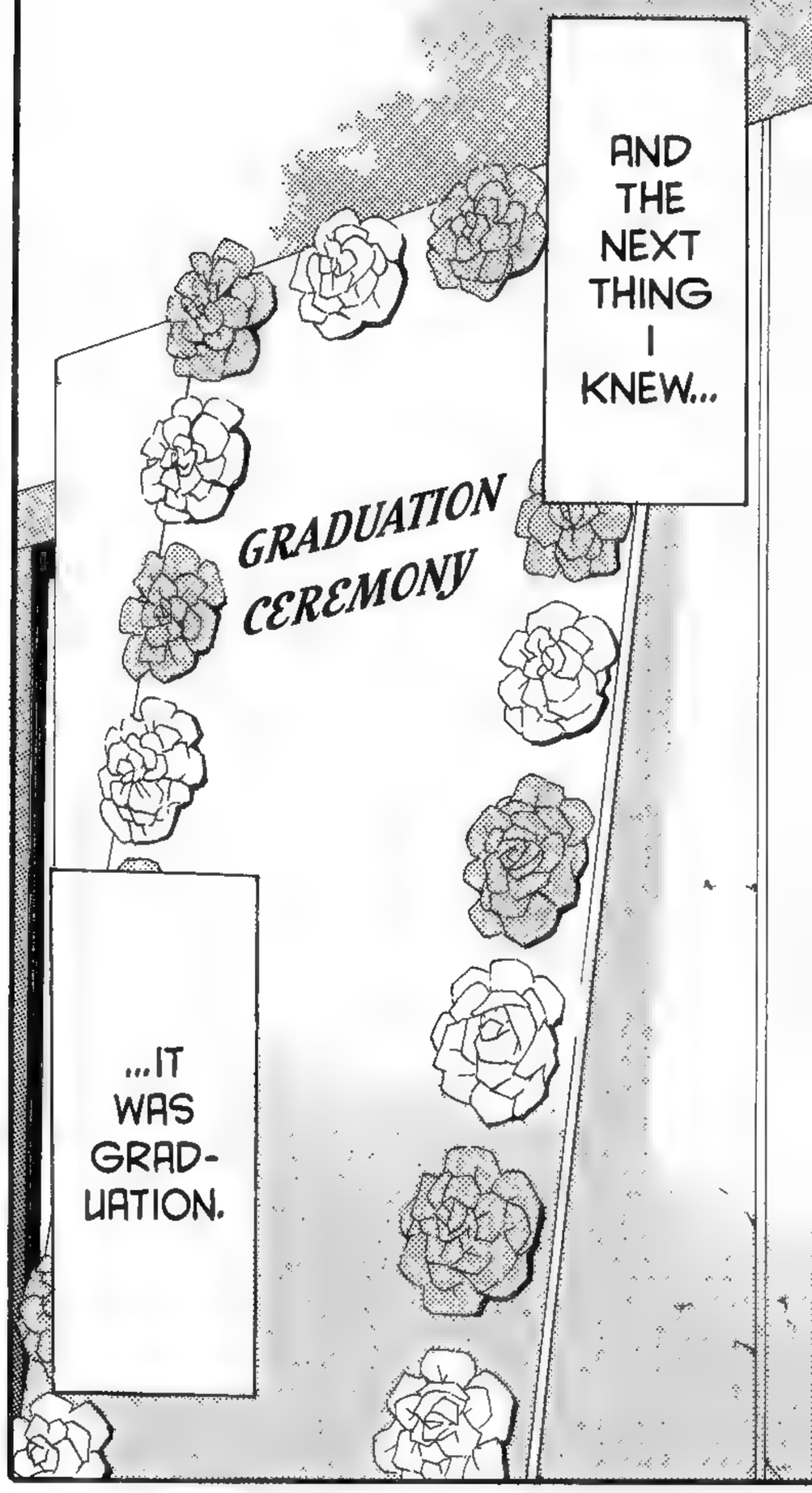
WHAT'S WRONG, YUUKA-CHAN!?


CLOP
CLOP

I WAS HOPING A SCOUT WOULD SPOT ME AT THE HANAZONO TOURNAMENT, BUT IT DIDN'T GO QUITE AS PLANNED.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET A REGULAR JOB AFTER GRADU-ATION.


WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK KINDA SAD TODAY, YUUKA-CHAN...
AH...! IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE GONNA MISS ME?




AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW...
GRADUATION CEREMONY
...IT WAS GRAD-UATION.

I TOLD YOU TO...

.....?

W-WHAT'S WRONG...?

STOP CALLING ME "YUUKA-CHAN"!!

I...

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU...!

I REALLY LIKE YOU, SENPAI...

WHAT...

I KNOW...

WHAT...?

HH

TSSSWAAA

I LIKE YOU, TOO, YUUKA-CHAN.

YOU'RE JUST LIKE A LITTLE SISTER.

AH...!

SEE YA! YOU'D BETTER STUDY HARD, NOW THAT YOU'RE THE STUDENT VICE PRESIDENT.

SENPAI!!

HE NEVER EVEN...

...TOOK ME SERIOUSLY...

...TIME AND TIME AGAIN...

SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE TRIED TO TELL HIM HOW I FEEL...

NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE.

W-WELL, I THOUGHT HE WAS IGNORING ME BECAUSE I WAS TOO PLAIN.

SO, THAT'S WHY YOU BECAME SUCH A REBEL.

DON'T BE STU-PID.

THINGS ARE DIF-FERENT NOW.

IT'S NOT THAT EASY.

WELL, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TRY TELLING HIM HOW YOU FEEL ONE MORE TIME?

NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER CHANCE.

THAT'S NO FAIR!

WHAT...?

W-WELL, MY SITUATION IS DIFFER-ENT!!

DIF-FERENT HOW?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME NEVER TO GIVE UP ON SUZUKA, BUT LOOK HOW WEAK *YOU* ARE.

DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I MADE A TOTAL ASS OUT OF MYSELF!?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT, YUUKA-SAN. REMEMBER?

WHAT...

YOU LIKE HIM, AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT...

.....

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA TRY TO BECOME MORE MATURE, SO HE'D NOTICE YOU...

WASN'T THAT YOUR PLAN?

STEP

LET ME DOWN... I CAN WALK.

WHAT... BUT YOU SAID-

WAIT... WHERE ARE YOU GOING!? THAT'S THE WRONG WAY.

GEEZ, HOW COME YOU ONLY RE-MEMBER WEIRD STUFF LIKE THAT?

SHUT UP!! I DON'T NEED A LITTLE KID LIKE YOU WORRYING ABOUT ME.

LET'S HIT ANOTHER BAR!

WHAT!? ARE YOU CRAZY? ASAHINA'LL KILL ME!

SO THIS IS SUZUKA ASAHINA'S SCHOOL...

AOBA PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL

ALL RIGHT!

TIME TO GO TO WORK!

SUZUKA

SUZUKA

#94 A Custom Order

PLUP

HSOOHM

HSOOHM

FWUMP

PHEW

WOW, LOOKING GOOD, ASAHINA.

YOU'RE SO FULL OF EN-ERGY.

OH, IS IT THAT OBVI-OUS!?

WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD, YAMATO-KUN?

THAT MEANS NO MORE OF HIS STUPID HAZING.

I HEARD THAT THE OLD CAPTAIN WOULDN'T BE COMING BACK THIS SEMESTER.

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!!? WOULD YOU QUIT PICKING ON ME, PLEASE?

I DIDN'T COME HERE JUST TO PICK ON YOU, SHITHEAD!

THWUMP

HMMMPH

A-HA...! ARE YOU THAT HAPPY TO BE RID OF ME?

ASAHINA! THIS GENTLEMAN HERE WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

WHAT...?

HOW DO YOU DO!

BOW

I'M SASAOKA FROM THE ADIREX SALES DEPARTMENT.

HUH!? SASAOKA-SAN.

AH, YAMATO-KUN!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ON THIS SCHOOL'S TRACK TEAM.

YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?

WELL... KIND OF.

COULD I HAVE A MOMENT WITH YOU?

OUR COMPANY IS VISITING HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE TOKYO DISTRICT AND MEETING WITH SOME OF THE MOST PROMISING ATHLETES LIKELY TO BE COMPETING IN THIS YEAR'S INTER-HIGH MEET.

AH, SORRY...

SO... WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?

I'D ALSO LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOUR TEACHER, WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH ME TO THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE?

AH... YES...

ALL RIGHT...

W-WELL, GUESS I'LL SEE YOU LATER, OKAY.

OH, HE'S FROM A SPORTING GOODS COMPANY.

WHAT'S GOING ON!? WHAT'S HE DOING HERE!!?

WHAT'S THEIR PROB-LEM?

APPARENTLY, THEY'RE GOING AROUND TOKYO TALKING TO ATHLETES WHO ARE GONNA BE COMPETING IN THE I.H. MEET.

WHY DIDN'T THEY TALK TO YOU, AKITSUKI-KUN!

WHAT!?

YOU WERE IN FIRST PLACE AT THE TOKYO DISTRICT PRELIMINARY AND YOU EVEN HAD THE RECORD FOR THE YEAR...AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, RIGHT?

IF YOU'D HAD THAT TIME IN LAST YEAR'S I.H. YOU'D HAVE WON!

I CAN'T BLAME 'EM. I DIDN'T EVEN PASS THE PRELIMI-NARIES LAST YEAR.

BUT...

GLARE

EXCUSE ME?

AREN'T YOU COLD IN THAT SKIMPY LITTLE OUTFIT?

IT'S FEBRUARY, YOU KNOW?

WHAT...

WHAT'S WRONG?

SHUT UP, STUPID!!

WHATEVER? I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU, ALL RIGHT?

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW!

WHO CARES ABOUT WHAT I'M WEARING!!

OH, IT'S NO PROB-LEM.

TEACHER'S LOUNGE

SORRY OUR LIT-TLE TALK TOOK SO LONG...

SLIDE

TEACHER'S LOUNGE

IT COULD BE A REALLY GOOD OPPOR-TUNITY FOR YOU.

WELL, JUST THINK IT OVER

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

OKAY.

THANKS.

...WE CAN TALK SPECIF-ICS.

OKAY, I'LL COME BACK SOON AND...

CLOPPA

CLOPPA

1-C

AH...

MY BAG...

SLIDE

HEY...

TOOK YA LONG ENOUGH.

YAMATO-KUN...

SO?

HOW DID IT GO?

WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME ALL THIS TIME?

STEP

YEAH!

HE ASKED ME... IF I WANTED SOME CUSTOM-MADE SHOES...

UH... YEAH...

WELL...

I GUESS WITH YOU, IT'S DIFFERENT, SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN IN THE I.H.!

THE OTHER DAY, I ASKED HIM IF HE'D MAKE A PAIR FOR ME, BUT HE SAID NO.

HUH...?

WOW!! THAT'S AWESOME!!

WHAT?

WHAT'S WRONG? AREN'T YOU HAPPY?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE WORRYING ABOUT YOURSELF?

WHAT?

THIS SHOULD'VE AT LEAST MOTIVATED YOU TO TRY HARDER.

INSTEAD YOU JUST SIT THERE SMILING LIKE AN IDIOT!

THINK ABOUT IT. I GET THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND YOU DON'T EVEN FEEL LEFT BEHIND OR ANYTHING...

I JUST DON'T LIKE YOUR ATTITUDE!!

WHAT ARE YOU SO MAD ABOUT? DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?

WHAT'S GOING ON...?

WHAT...

THINK ABOUT IT! LAST YEAR'S INTER-HIGH COMPETITION, THE DISTRICT COMPETI-TION...?

CLANK

ガラッ

AND THE TRAINING CAMP, TOO...

.....

I ALWAYS END UP BY MYSELF!

WHAT...?

OH...

ARE YOU GONNA MAKE ME GO TO THE INTER-HIGH ALONE THIS YEAR, TOO?

ASAHINA WANTS TO GO THERE WITH ME...

I-I GET IT...

WHAT...?

SORRY...

BUT...

JUST BECAUSE WE'RE BACK TOGETHER, DOESN'T MEAN I CAN STOP TRAINING.

...THAT I HADN'T REALLY BEEN CONCEN-TRATING ON MY TRAIN-ING...

I GUESS...I WAS JUST SO HAPPY ABOUT GETTING BACK TOGETHER WITH YOU...

I'M GONNA TRY AS HARD AS I CAN.

LET'S MAKE IT TO THE INTER-HIGH TOGETHER THIS YEAR!

OKAY.

I'LL BE ROOT-ING FOR YOU...

TH-THIS YEAR?

HEY, MIHO. ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE YAMATO-KUN VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE THIS YEAR, TOO?

PLINK

LAST YEAR I MANAGED TO GET ONE "GIRI-CHOCO" FROM HER...

BUT HER REAL CHOCOLATE WENT TO THAT YAMATO GUY...

GOD DAMN IT! SHE'S GIVING YAMATO CHOCO-LATE AGAIN?

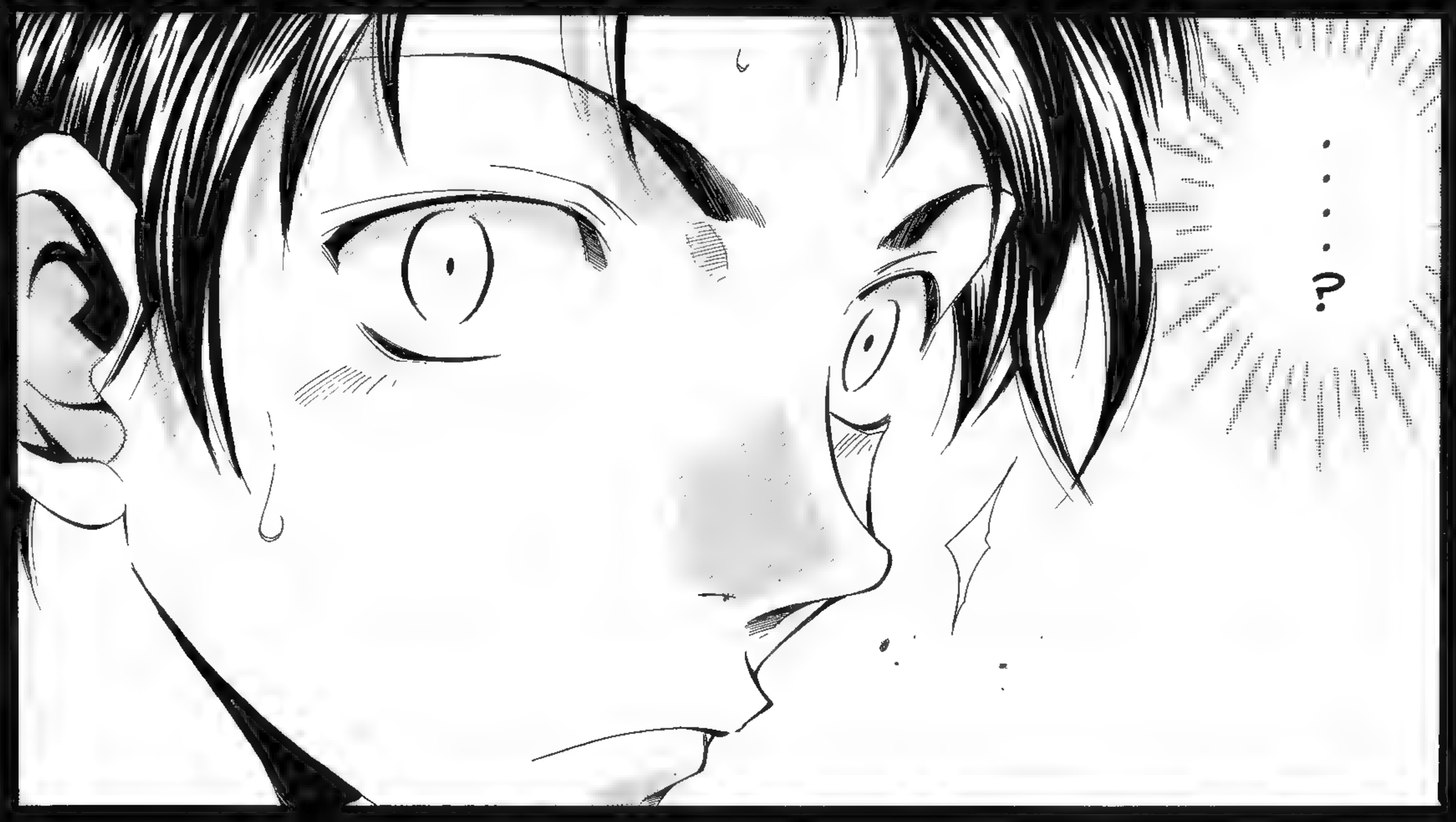
THIS YEAR...?

TSUYOSHI KUSAKABE (EIGHTH GRADE), HAS A HUGE CRUSH ON MIHO-CHAN.

SUZUKA

SUZUKA

#95 Do Over



CHATTER

CHATTER

2-B

SHE REALLY LIKED HIM LAST YEAR, BUT THIS YEAR SHE'S NOT GIVING HIM ANY CHOC-OLATE...?

WHAT'S GOING ON...?

SHE LIKES SOME OTHER GUY...

MAYBE...

. . . . . !!

OH, NO...

GLANCE

ドキ

FWIP

ドキ

SHOCK

AH...!?

SHE USED TO JUST IGNORE ME, BUT NOW SHE SAYS "GOOD MORNING" TO ME EVERY DAY.

C-COME TO THINK OF IT, SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE I CATCH HER LOOKING AT ME.

DING

DONG

OH MY GOD!

COULD THIS REALLY BE HAPPENING!?

ドキ

THUMP

ドキ

THUMP

ドキ...

FEBRU-
ARY
14TH

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

GOOD
MORN-
ING!

HAND-MADE CHOCOLATES

I SAW HER BUYING INGREDIENTS FOR MAKING CHOCOLATE AT THE MARKET YESTERDAY.

THAT MEANS SHE'S DEFINITELY PLANNING ON GIVING SOME CHOCOLATE TO SOMEBODY.

HEY, I HEARD WE GET FREE STUDY TIME IN FIRST PERIOD TODAY.

REALLY!?

WHO...

...COULD IT BE...?

IT'S GOTTA BE ME, RIGHT?

IT MUST BE ME...!!

NONE IN MY LOCKER, NONE IN MY BAG, AND EVEN MY SHOE CUBBY WAS EMPTY, SO...

THERE'S NO CHOCO-LATE IN MY DESK...

...OR IN MY SHOE CUBBY.

SLUMP

IT'S HOME-MADE CHOCO-LATE, SO IT MUST BE FOR SOME-ONE SPE-CIAL. SHE'S PROBABLY HANDING IT DIRECTLY TO HIM...

WHO'S SHE GIVING IT TO THEN...?

SWUP

AH!! I KNOW...!

MAYBE SHE WENT HOME BECAUSE SHE GOT TIRED OF WAITING FOR ME TO FINISH PRACTICE.

SHE PROBABLY GOT EMBARRASSED WAITING BY HERSELF AFTER SCHOOL!!

YEAH. THAT MUST BE IT!!

THAT MAKES SENSE.

AH...BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE I LIVE, SO SHE CAN'T BRING IT TO ME...

WHISPER

WHISPER

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

GUESS I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE...

I'LL HAVE TO GO SEE HER.

ASAHIYU BATHS

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST STOP...

...GIV-ING HIM CHOCO-LATES...

GLANCE キョロ

GLANCE キョロ

AH...!

STEP

H-HEY!

. . . . . .

WHAT!?

UH-HUH, WELL... BYE...

TSUYOSHI-KUN... YOU HEADING HOME FROM PRACTICE?

HEY GUYS!!

UH... IS THAT...

WHAT?

Y-YEAH. PRACTICE WENT REALLY LONG TODAY...

ASAHIYU BATHS

YAMATO AKITSUKI, REPORTING BACK TO BASE!

YAMATO AKITSUKI...!?

WHAT...!?

. . . . !

. . . . !!

SORRY. I HAD TRACK PRAC-TICE..

YOU'RE LATE, YAMATO-KUN. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOREVER.

AH...

SO THIS IS YAMATO...

HMMPH... HE LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY AVER-AGE GUY.

W-WELL, I'VE GOT TO GO, FUJI-KAWA!

ALL RIGHT, SEE YA.

AH... YEAH...

HUH? OH... YOU'RE STILL HERE, TSUYOSHI-KUN?

AH... IS THIS YOUR FRIEND?

SHE'S GIVING CHOCOLATE TO HIM AFTER ALL!!

WELL... I JUST WANTED TO...

WHY WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME?

SHIT... WHAT THE HELL!!

SO WHY THE HELL'D SHE STRING ME ALONG LIKE THAT?!

DID SHE HAVE TO LOOK SO FREAKIN' HAPPY IN FRONT OF HIM?

SHIT!!

SHIT!!

YAMATO-KUN!

WHERE ARE YOU GUYS GOING?

ASAHINA'S TAKING ME OUT TO DINNER.

I GOT US RESERVA-TIONS.

SHE TRIED MAKING HOMEMADE CHOCO-LATES, BUT SHE KEPT MESSING UP, SO...

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

YANK

BLEAH

WE CAN GO RIGHT NOW!

OH...IT'S NOTHING! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!!

AH...MIHO-CHAN. YOU SAID YOU WERE WAITING FOR SOMETHING...?

THANKS, MIHO-CHAN. SEE YOU LATER.

YEAH, THANKS.

I'LL TELL MOM YOU WON'T BE NEEDING DINNER TONIGHT!!

WELL, HAVE FUN, YOU GUYS!

RUSTLE

FROM NOW ON...

...I WON'T NEED THIS GIRI CHOCO ANYMORE.

H-HEY. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO...

...WITH THAT?

NOTHING NOW...

FUJIKAWA...

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE GIRI CHOCO TO ME...LOOKS MORE LIKE THE REAL DEAL.

……

WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU TELL-ING ME?
W-WELL, I'M JUST SAYING...

MAN, I'M STARV-ING!

TSUYOSHI-KUN...

I CAN'T STAND TO SEE HER LOOKING SO SAD...!!

AHHH, I'M STARVING TO DEATH. I'D EAT ANYTHING RIGHT NOW...

AFTER A HARD DAY OF PRACTICE, IT'D SURE BE NICE TO HAVE SOME-THING SWEET TO EAT.

I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY SWEETS AROUND HERE.

HERE. SINCE YOU SOUND SO PATHETIC, I'LL LET YOU HAVE THIS!

OKAY, FINE...

ARE YOU SURE?

WHAT...?

FWISH

W-WELL, I PROMISE I'LL EAT EVERY LAST BIT OF IT, NO MATTER HOW BAD IT TASTES.

WHAT-EVER... LATER.

BUT YOU'D BETTER SAVOR EVERY BITE!

I MADE IT FROM SCRATCH!

CLOPPA カツン

カツン CLOPPA

AH...

WHY IS SHE SO COLD?

GEEZ...

SHE BARELY EVEN KNOWS I EXIST.

SHE MADE THIS CHOCO-LATE FOR YAMATO, NOT FOR ME...

I GUESS I TOTALLY MIS-READ...

...THE WAY OUR EYES KEPT MEETING, AND...

STEP

...HER SAYING GOOD MORN-ING TO ME EVERY DAY.

BUT NEXT YEAR...

NEXT YEAR...

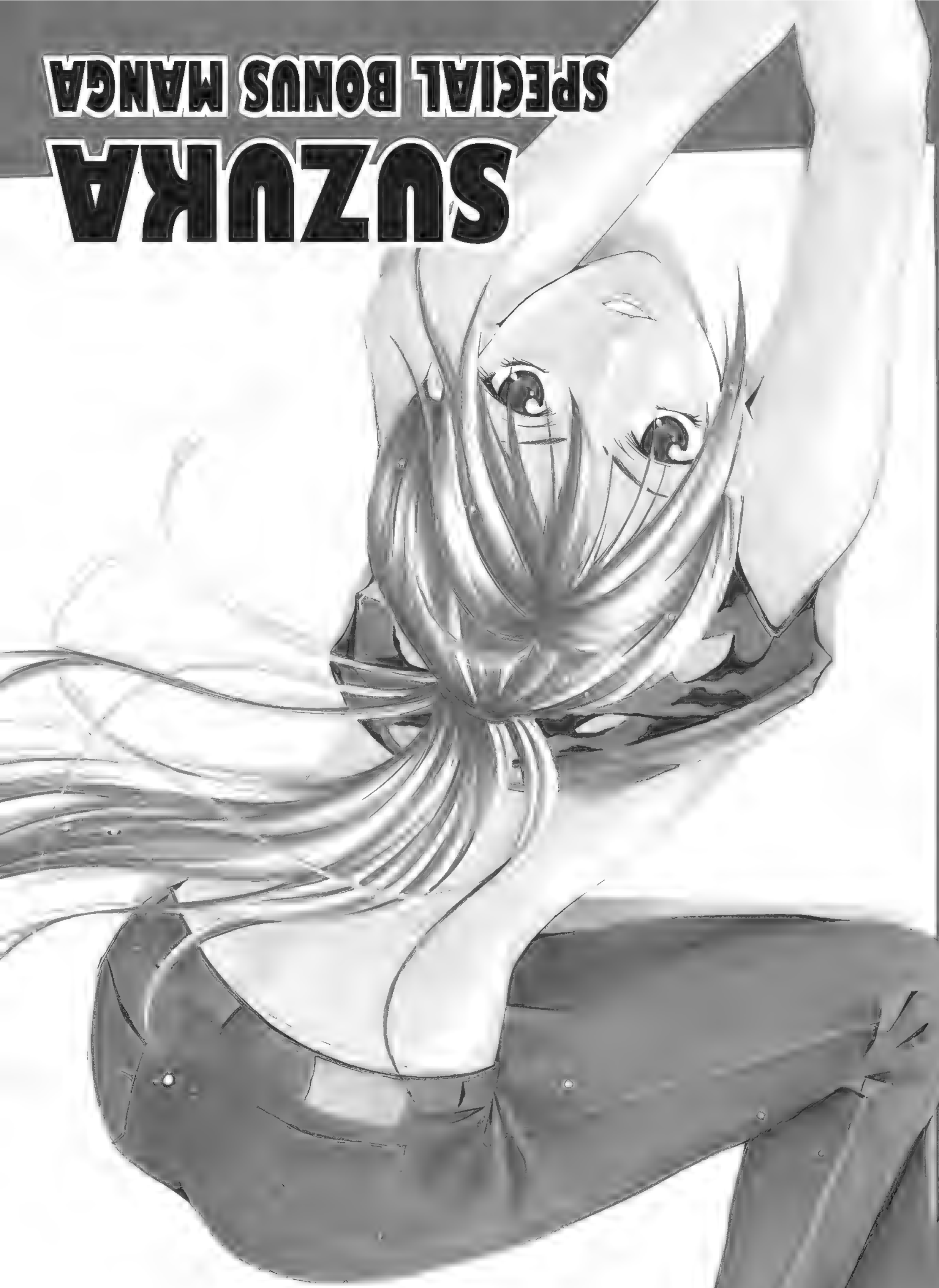
HUH...?

NEXT YEAR I'M GONNA GET AT LEAST...

...A LITTLE BIT CLOSER TO HER.

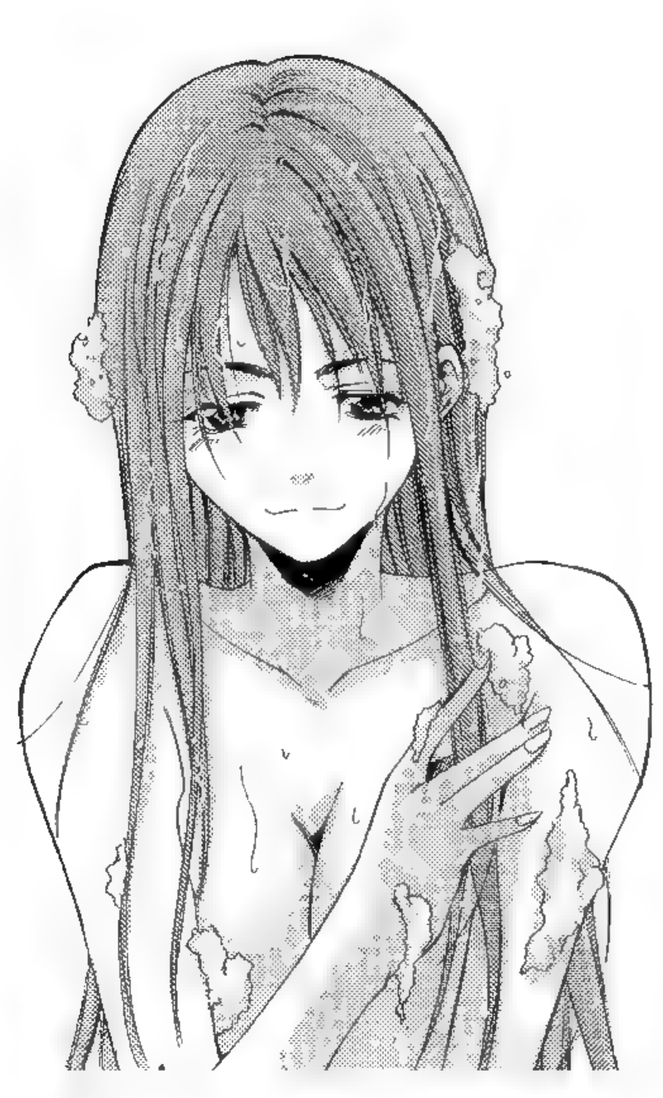
SUZUKA

SPECIAL BONUS MANGA



MIKI

MIKI



ASAHIYU BATHS

DECEM-
BER
31ST

WHAT...?

HASHIBA
GOT HURT?

WELL, I
WOULDN'T
WORRY
TOO
MUCH.

I MEAN, IF
SHE WAS
ABLE TO
E-MAIL YOU,
SHE MUST
BE OKAY.

YOU'RE
SO
COLD!
WHAT IF
SHE'S
HURT
REALLY
BAD!?

YEAH.

SHE E-
MAILED ME
SAYING IT'S
NOTHING
SERIOUS,
BUT I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
HER...

THE THING
IS, I'M
BUSY
TILL THE
EVENING
SO, I
DON'T
THINK
I CAN
VISIT HER
TODAY...

OH, WILL YOU GIVE THIS TO HER!?

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO ANYWAY.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO VISIT HER FOR YOU.

UH...

YOU'RE GONNA GET HER SOME-THING, TOO, RIGHT?

WHAT'S THAT? A GET-WELL GIFT?

AWW, MAN. CAN'T I JUST SAY IT'S FROM BOTH OF US?

WHAT!?

ASAHI

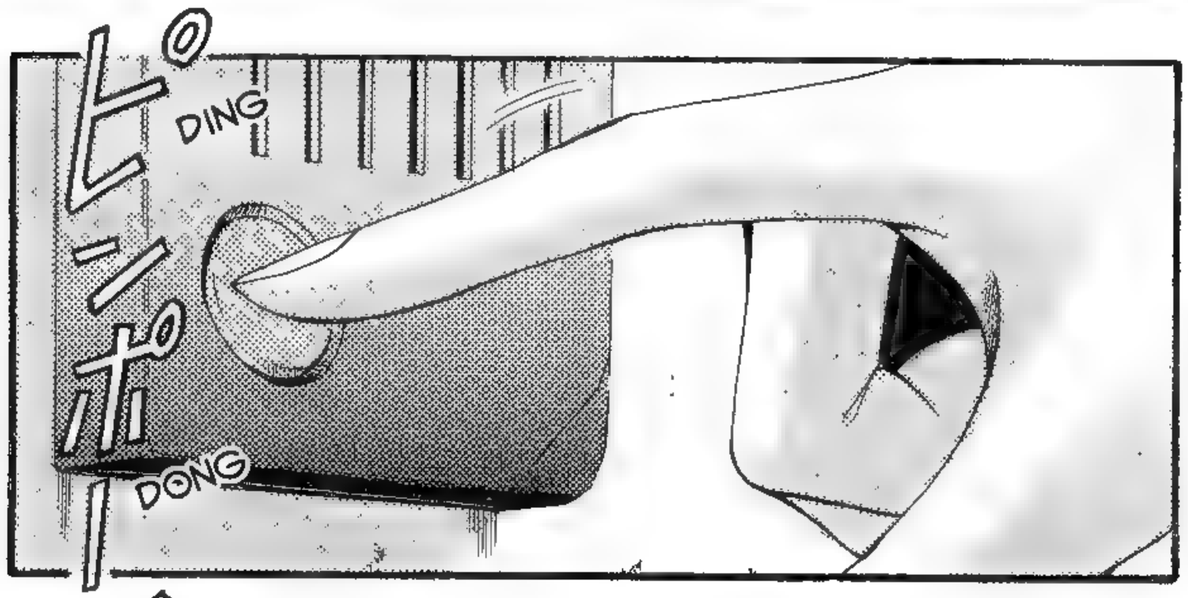
I'M KIDDING. I'M KIDDING. I'LL GO GET SOMETHING FOR HER...

IT'S A PRESENT. TODAY IS MIKI'S BIRTHDAY.

1310

NHK

HASHIBA



WHAT...?

GEEZ, CAN'T YOU OPEN THE DOOR BY YOUR-SELF!?

CLICK

AKITSUKI?

I TOLD YOU MY LEG HURTS!

AND TO GIVE YOU YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENTS...

THE BIG ONE'S FROM ASAHINA...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY LITTLE BROTHER. WHAT ARE YOU DOING COMING ALL THE WAY OUT TO MY HOUSE?

W-WELL... I JUST CAME TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY...

...

11° CLOP

11° CLOP

OH, THANKS. COME ON IN!!

NO, BUT...

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET?

IS MY HOUSE THAT WEIRD?

THE DOC-TOR SAID MY JOINTS ARE IN-FLAMED. I GUESS I PUSHED MYSELF A LITTLE TOO HARD.

W-WOULD YOU MIND...

...PUTTING SOME CLOTHES ON...?

HMM...

PLUNK

コトリ

HAVE YOU NO SHAME?

THEY'RE NOT THE SAME AT ALL!!

I JUST FIGURED THESE WERE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS MY GYM SHORTS, SO...

AH... SORRY. DOES THIS BOTHER YOU?

OH...

WHAT...?

DID YOU EVER MANAGE TO CALL SUZUKA BY HER FIRST NAME?

ZIP

HEY, AKIT-SUKI.

I WANT TO, BUT I'M TOO EMBAR-RASSED.

N-NO...I JUST COULDN'T DO IT.

.....

YOU STILL CALL ME 'HASHIBA' TOO.

I FIGURED YOU'D JUST GIVE UP...

PRAC-
TICING?

HEY...
YOU
KNOW
WHAT!?

WHY
DON'T
YOU TRY
PRACTIC-
ING ON
ME!?

YEAH!
FROM
NOW ON,
JUST TRY
CALLING
ME "MIKI."

OR ELSE
I WON'T
ANSWER,
ALL
RIGHT?

IF YOU
CAN'T EVEN
CALL ME BY
MY FIRST
NAME,
YOU'LL
NEVER GET
ANYWHERE
WITH
SUZUKA.

I GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT...

W
H
A
T
...?

OH GREAT,
ANOTHER
ONE OF
HER WEIRD
LITTLE
GAMES.

WELL, BOTH OF MY PARENTS WORK, AND

I'VE GOT TWO LITTLE BROTHERS. IT AIN'T EASY.

ALL RIGHT. I'M GOING TO MAKE SOME LUNCH, SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY CALLING ME BY MY FIRST NAME WHILE I'M COOKING.

WOW! YOU MAKE YOUR OWN LUNCH?

WOW...

YOU'RE MORE MATURE THAN I THOUGHT, HASHIBA...

AH...

I GUESS THE GAME HAS ALREADY STARTED...

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

CHOP

CHOP

CHOP

HMMM...

PERFECT!

I-IT ACTUALLY MAKES IT HARDER WHEN SHE TELLS ME I HAVE TO CALL HER BY HER FIRST NAME...LIKE THE PRESSURE'S ON OR SOMETHING.

.....

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

MMM... SMELLS GOOD. IS THAT NIKUJAGA?

AH... SURE.

WANNA TRY SOME?

HUH?

HERE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE THIS YOURSELF...

MMMM... THIS IS REALLY GOOD...

YOU'RE A GREAT COOK, HASHI...

IT'S REALLY GOOD!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

YEP!

.....

DD

GLARE

WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SAY? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

M-MIKI= MUMBLE...

OH...

NOPE, TRY AGAIN!!

C-COME ON. I SAID IT ONCE!

GO ON, SAY IT AGAIN! LOUDER THIS TIME!

I'M REALLY IMPRESSED, MIKI!!

YOU'RE A GREAT COOK, MIKI!!

.....

WHAT!? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO DO IT!!

IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY WEIRD TO HEAR YOU SAY IT.

WH—

WHAT NOW?

GOD!! GET AWAY FROM ME!!

SWISH

N-NO WAY.

FORGET THAT!

THAT'S NOT FAIR. YOU SHOULD HAVE TO CALL ME "YAMATO" NOW!!

AH...

WAH!!

SPLASH

CLICK

OFF

OFF

DAMN IT! I JUST TOOK A SHOWER!!

S-SORRY...

7" BUBBLE

7" BUBBLE

AH... OKAY...

I'M GONNA GO TAKE ANOTHER SHOWER.

YOU'D BETTER WASH THAT SHIRT BEFORE THE STAIN SETS.

FOR SOME REASON, SHE LOOKS SUPER HOT WHEN YOU CAN ONLY SEE HER SILHOUETTE IN THE SHOWER.

STARE

.....

SCRUB SCRUB

Y-YEAH!

HEY.

CAN I...

...ASK YOU SOME-THING?

AH... SURE. WHAT IS IT?

WHAT...?

TSSSSSSS

P

P

P

...WHAT MADE YOU FALL SO MUCH IN LOVE WITH HER.

I'VE BEEN WONDER-ING...

SQUINCH

Y-YEAH... SURE...

YOU REALLY LIKE SUZUKA, DON'T YOU?

I JUST FELT SOME-THING...

UHHH... WELLL...

WHAT!?

THAT'S ALL!?

I WAS PASSING BY THE TRACK BEFORE I STARTED SCHOOL AND I SAW HER PRACTICING HIGH JUMP.

YOU'RE SUCH A SIMPLE CREA-TURE.

S-SHUT UP!!

SHE JUST LOOKED AMAZING... I GUESS THAT'S WHAT DID IT.

WHAT...?

SO, IF IT'D BEEN ME PRACTICING, MAYBE YOU'D HAVE FALLEN FOR ME INSTEAD OF SUZUKA.

JUST KIDDING!

.....

I MEAN, YOU SEEM TO REALLY BE IN LOVE WITH SUZUKA.

SPLASH

YEAH...

I GUESS... YOU'RE RIGHT...

YEAH... SEEMS THAT WAY TO ME ANYWAY...

Y-YOU THINK SO...?

S-SURE, NO PROB-LEM, BUT SHOULDN'T YOU BE RESTING?

...HASHIBA.

HEY, THANKS FOR COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...

...!

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU CAME.

YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW...

SQUINCH

.....

TSSS

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT, *YAMATO.*

I SAID GET THE HELL OUT OF MY HOUSE, RIGHT NOW!

YOU IDIOT, AKIT-SUKI!!

HUH?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

W-WHAT ARE YOU SO MAD ABOUT, HASHIBA?

SHUT UP!!

NOTH-ING!!

THE END

SUZUKA-MON

EPISODE 4: INVISIBILITY CANDY!

KABUTO COMICS

KOJI G. SEO

HUH?

WHERE ARE YOU?

TAPPA トゥ

TAPPA トゥ

SUZUKA-MON

LISTEN TO WHAT HAPPENED, KINUGASA-SENPAI IS SUCH A JERK...!!

ASAYIBATHS

HMMPH

DAMN, I WAS GONNA ASK HER TO PULL SOME SECRET WEAPONS OUT OF HER POUCH FOR ME.

WHAT'S THAT?

HEY!!

SMACK

WAA!!

AH! IT'S SUZUKA-MON'S SPARE POUCH!

WITH THIS, I CAN GET ALL THE SECRET WEAPONS I NEED.

I WAS JUST LOOK-ING FOR A SECRET WEAPON SO I COULD GET BACK AT KINUGASA-SENPAI...

THERE'S NOTHING IN THERE, YOU IDIOT!!

YOU, PERVERT!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING WITH MY MAKEUP BAG!!

IT'S JUST A TABLE ON WHEELS THAT I ORDERED FROM THE HOME SHOP-PING CATALOG...

OUTER SPACE DEPARTMENT STORE? WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?

HUH? WHAT'S THAT!!?

DID YOU GET IT AT SOME FUTURISTIC OUTER SPACE DEPARTMENT STORE?

JUST TAKE SOME OF THOSE PROTEIN PILLS IN THE CUPBOARD AND GET IN SHAPE.

BUT THAT MEANS I'D HAVE TO TRAIN AND STUFF. I WANT A MAGICAL SECRET WEAPON.

JUST SHUT UP!

THERE'S NOTHING IN MY POUCH. NOW LEAVE ME ALONE. I WANNA SET THIS UP.

HEY, PULL SOMETHING OUT OF YOUR SECRET POUCH FOR ME. I NEED TO GET EVEN WITH KINUGASA-SENPAI.

IT JUST LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR TIN OF COUGH DROPS TO ME.

JUST EAT ONE, AND YOU'LL BECOME INVISIBLE.

TEAR

IT'S *INVISIBILITY CANDY!!*

TA-DAH

OH, FINE, HERE!

HEY, AM I REALLY TURNING INVISIBLE?

I CAN SEE MYSELF...

YEAH, YOU'RE TOTALLY INVISIBLE.

O-OKAY. DON'T GET MAD.

SNKT

JUST SHUT UP AND EAT ONE, BEFORE I WHOOP YOUR ASS!

WHAT A PEST...

STOMP

ALL RIGHT!! TIME TO GET SOME REVENGE ON THAT JERK.

STOMP

. . . . . .

YOINK

YOINK

OH MY GOD. WHERE ARE YOU, YAMATO-KUN. I CAN'T SEE YOU AT ALL!

!?

ダッ!!

THWACK

AH... THERE HE IS!

SUZUKA-MON DOESN'T EVEN CARE ABOUT YAMATO-KUN! SO WHAT'S SHE DOING IN HIS HOUSE?

WHAT!?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!!?

OH MY GOD. WHERE IS YAMATO-KUN? I CAN'T SEE HIM AT ALL!

I THOUGHT SOMETHING WASN'T QUITE RIGHT. I MEAN, IT TASTED LIKE A REGULAR MINT CANDY!! YOU JUST GAVE ME SOME CANDIES YOU DIDN'T WANT.... DIDN'T YOU?

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME!?

'NAKAYOSU' MARCH EDITION

☆ THE END OF EPISODE 4 ☆

SUZUKA

COACH☆

THANKS TO ALL YOU *SUZUKA* FANS, THE TV ANIME VERSION OF *SUZUKA* WAS AN ENORMOUS SUCCESS. THE NEXT COUPLE OF PAGES CONTAIN SOME SPECIAL MESSAGES FROM THE COACH☆ GIRLS.
COACH☆ SANG *SUZUKA*'S OPENING AND CLOSING THEME SONGS, AND THEY ALSO DID SOME CHARACTER VOICES FOR THE ANIME. THE ILLUSTRATION HERE WAS DRAWN BY SEO-SENSEI. COPIES OF IT WERE HANDED OUT AT COACH☆ EVENTS SO THAT FANS COULD GET THEM AUTOGRAPHED BY THE GIRLS.

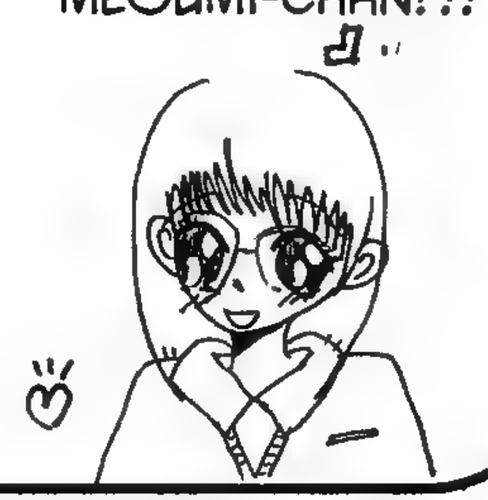
I'M AKESAKA FROM COACH ☆.

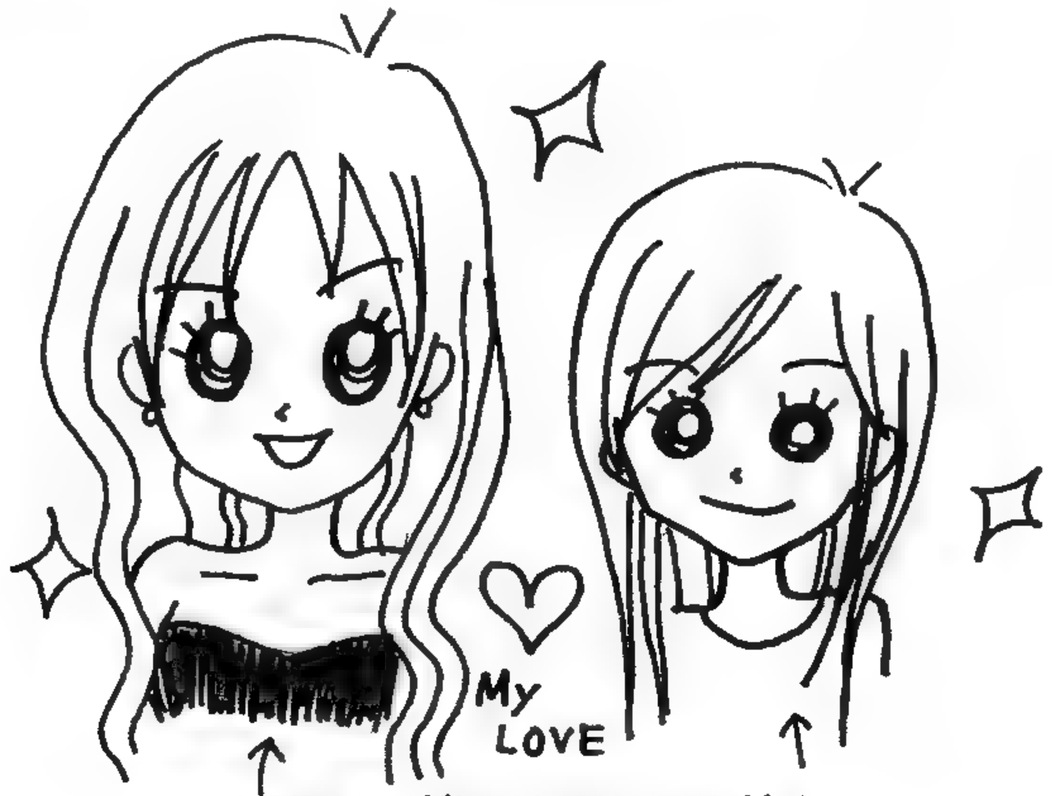
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MY DRAWING IS ACTUALLY GETTING PRINTED IN A MANGA. I'M SO NERVOUS. MY HANDS ARE SHAKING UNCONTROLLABLY RIGHT NOW. WAAA, WAAA, WAAA!!! I DID THE VOICE OF MIHO-CHAN AND I ALSO SANG THE OPENING AND CLOSING THEME SONGS. IT WAS SO MUCH FUN, BUT THERE WAS ONE THING THAT I FELT REALLY EMBARRASSED ABOUT...I FELT SO AWKWARD WHEN I HAD TO SAY "YAMATO ONIICHAN" (OLDER BROTHER YAMATO), BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY OLDER BROTHERS. EVERY WEEK, WHEN I HEAR THE WORDS "YAMATO ONIICHAN" ON TV, I KEEP TELLING MYSELF "THAT'S MIHO SAYING IT, NOT ME"...LIKE SOME KIND OF MANTRA...

SUZUKA IS SUCH A GREAT MANGA. I'M SO GLAD TO BE A PART OF THIS AMAZING TEAM!! IT WAS A REAL HONOR TO DO HONOKA'S VOICE... SNIFFLE SNIFF. I COULDN'T STOP CRYING TEARS OF JOY. THANK YOU, SEO-SENSEI!! NOW TELL ME, SEO-SENSEI, HOW CAN I BECOME AS CUTE AS HONOKA-CHAN? I REALLY WANT TO BE CUTE LIKE HER...

I'M HATSUMI MIURA OF COACH ☆,

AND I DID THE VOICE OF MEGUMI-CHAN!! I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAY HELLO TO ALL YOU *SUZUKA* FANS OUT THERE. THANK YOU, SEO-SENSEI!! IT WAS REALLY HARD DOING THE VOICE OF A DRUNK! THERE WAS A SCENE IN THE FIRST EPISODE WHERE YAMATO-KUN TRIPS AND PUSHES MEGUMI-CHAN ONTO THE FLOOR. MY LINE WAS "OUCH!!" AND I GUESS IT SOUNDED SO REAL THAT EVERYBODY AT THE RECORDING STUDIO BURST OUT LAUGHING WHEN I SAID IT. PLEASE WATCH FOR THAT PART ON THE DVD!!! *SUZUKA* IS A GREAT COMING OF AGE STORY AND I'M SO LUCKY THAT I GOT TO BE A PART OF IT. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!





NANA-CHAN AND MICHIE

HELLO! I'M MICHIE KITAURA OF COACH☆.

I'M SO HAPPY THAT I GOT TO PLAY A MANGA CHARACTER! AND I GOT TO DO THE VOICE OF THE CUTE IDOL SINGER, NANA-CHAN! I DID MY BEST TO SOUND CUTE FOR THE RECORDING. *SUZUKA* IS SUCH AN EXCITING STORY... SEO-SENSEI, PLEASE DON'T MAKE THE STORY ANY SADDER...

HI! I'M MANA FROM COACH☆. I'M REALLY GRATEFUL THAT I GOT TO SING THE OPENING AND CLOSING THEME SONGS FOR *SUZUKA!* AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THIS DON'T COME AROUND TOO OFTEN, AM I RIGHT? IT MADE ME SO HAPPY AND I'LL ALWAYS TREASURE THIS EXPERIENCE. I STARTED READING SUZUKA AS SOON AS WE WERE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECORD THE THEME MUSIC. I WAS INSTANTLY HOOKED. YAMATO-KUN AND SUZUKA-CHAN... SUCH A BITTERSWEET ROMANCE... I WANT TO TASTE SOME OF THAT, TOO!

SEO-SENSEI, THANKS FOR CREATING SUCH A GREAT MANGA. I LOOK FORWARD TO READING MORE OF *SUZUKA*.

SUZUKA

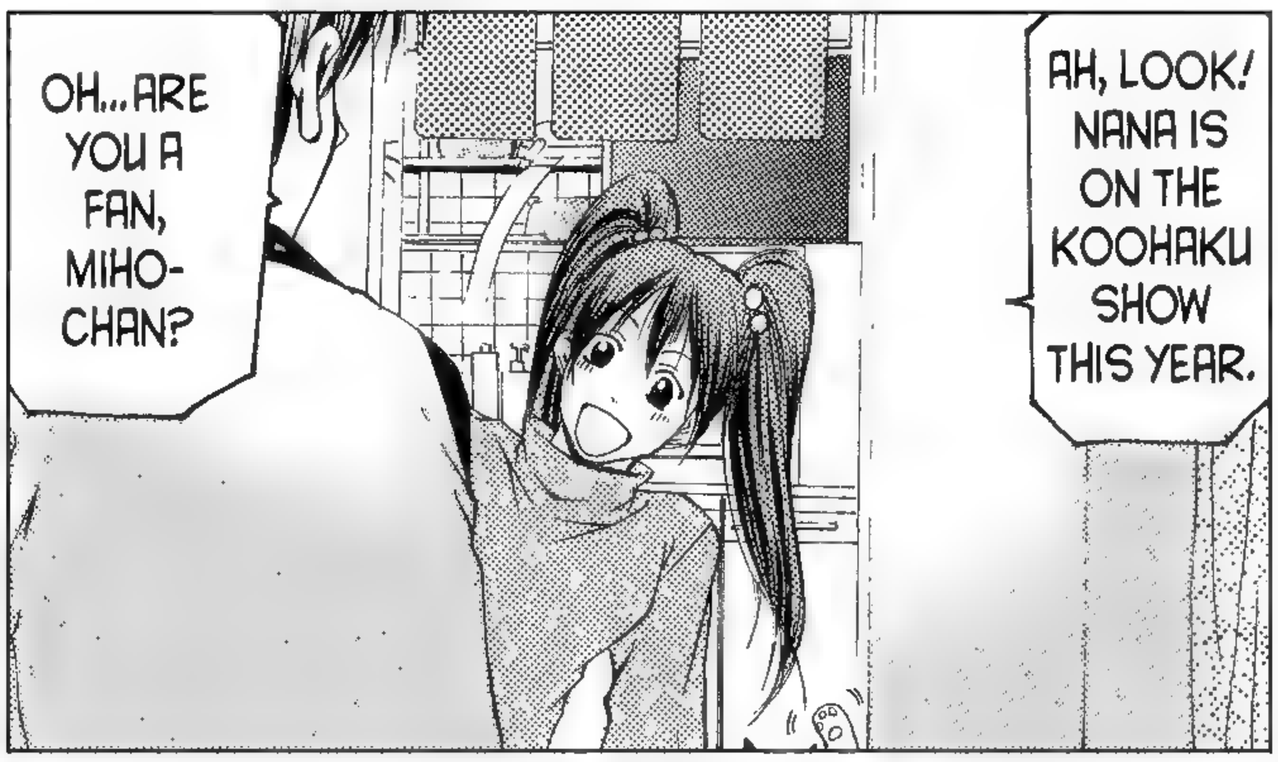
DEAR *SUZUKA* FANS, SORRY ABOUT MY TERRIBLE DRAWING! THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SUZUKA.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Toshikoshi soba, page 59

Toshikoshi soba is a special kind of buckwheat noodle customarily served on New Year's Eve. "*Toshikoshi*" literally means something like "coming into the new year."



Koohaku, page 60

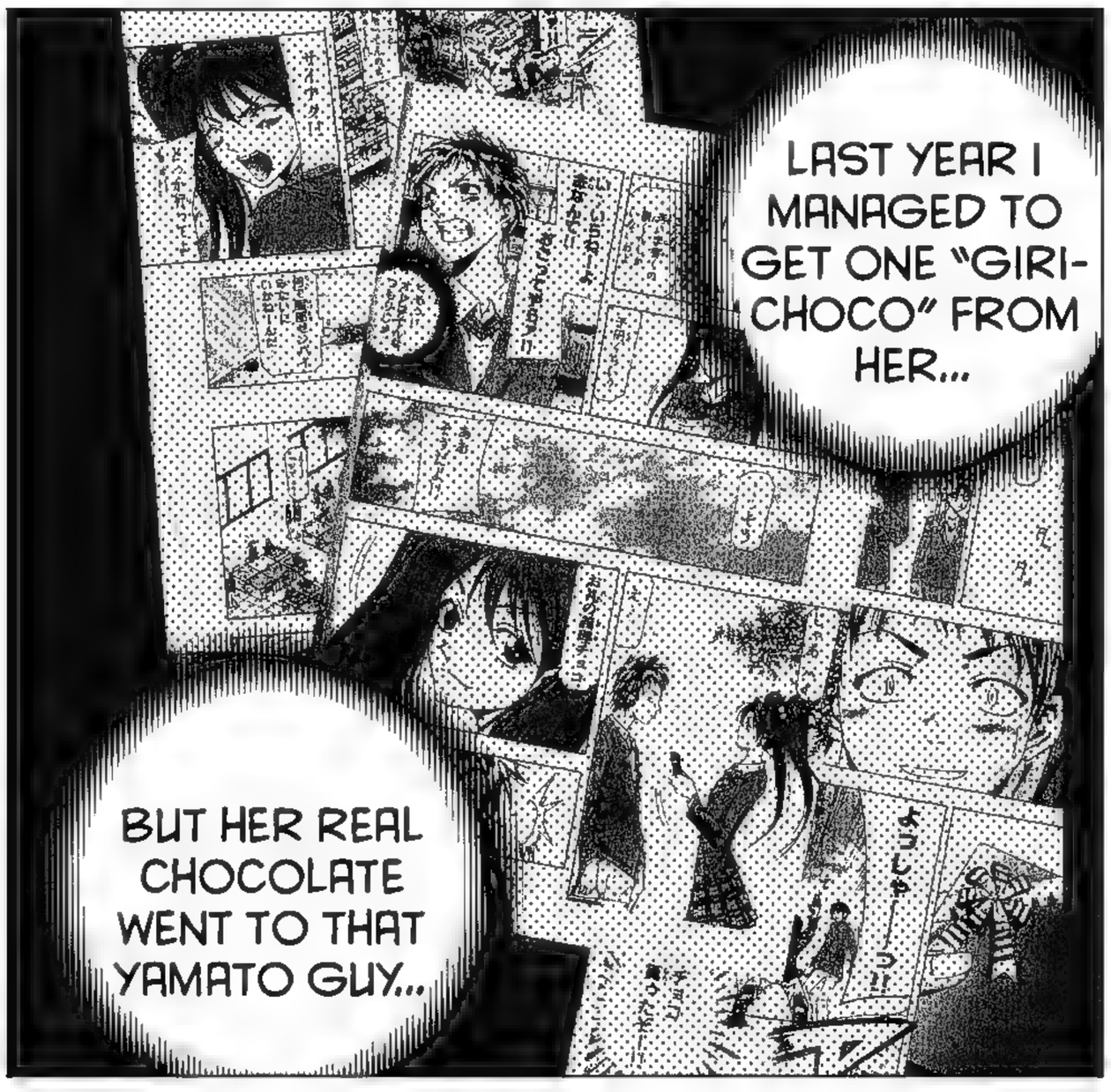
The *Koohaku* is a celebrity showdown in which two teams of pop stars, the red and the white, compete against each other by doing musical numbers. The show airs only on New Year's Eve and in many households watching the *Koohaku* is a New Year's tradition.

Hatsumode, page 63

It's Japanese tradition to visit a Shinto shrine during the first few days of the new year. The first shrine visit of the year is called *Hatsumode*.

Giri-choco, page 129

Giri-choco literally means something like "obligatory chocolate" or "duty chocolate." *Giri-choco* is used to describe the chocolate that girls give to guys on Valentine's day out of obligation. For example, if a woman gave chocolate to every man in her office, so that no one felt left out, she might refer to it as *giri-choco*. However, if a girl gave chocolate to her boyfriend, or a guy she was in love with, that would be considered "real" Valentine's chocolate.



Shoe cubby (*getabako*), page 134

Since most schools in Japan require students to change into their indoor shoes at school, each student gets a special shoe cubbyhole called *getabako*. The *getabako* is also notoriously used as a place to leave love letters and Valentine's gifts.

***Nikujaga*, page 175**

Nikujaga literally means "meat and potatoes," and that's exactly what this famous comfort food is. It's a stew made with beef, potatoes, carrots, and onions. Simple but delicious.

Preview of Volume 12

We're pleased to present you a preview of *Suzuka,* volume 12. Please check our website (www.delreymanga.com) to see when this volume will be available in English. For now you'll have to make do with Japanese!

まァ
バイトも初日(しょにち)だし
今日(きょう)は無理(むり)しないで
とりあえず　結衣(ゆい)と
接客(せっきゃく)だけやって
くれればいいから
はァ・・・・
接客(せっきゃく)・・・・
それじゃ
わかんないことは
先輩(せんぱい)の私(わたし)に
聞(き)いてね？
新入(しんい)りさん！

う…うん…
頑張(がんば)ります…

もォ～～～
シャキっとしてよォ

やれやれ
そんな調子(ちょうし)でウチの
バイトが勤(つと)まるかな

え!?

が・頑張(がんば)りますから!!
シャキっとしますから!!
クビだけはカンベンして
ください!!

い・いやそこまでは
言(い)ってないよ!

もォ!
お父(とう)さんが言(い)うと
冗談(じょうだん)になんないの!

パソコンが
必要(ひつよう)なんです～

スマンスマン
大丈夫(だいじょうぶ)だから

じ・じゃ結衣(ゆい)
あとはよろしくな
父(とう)さん 仕込(しこ)み
残(のこ)ってるから

はぁい!

よくよく考えたらオレ
フロ掃除以外のバイトって
初めてなんだよな……

カチン

コチン

ぜってー失敗は
できねェぞ!!

すっげー頑張って
認めてもらわ
ないと!!

大和くん
そんなに緊張してたら
一日もたないよ?

ハ・ハイ!!

だから……

カラーン

カラーン

いらっしゃいませ
――!!

き……

来たあ

ホラ
接客接客！

ハ…ハイ

ガラッ

いつ……

あれ……
いつもの女の子じゃ
ねーんだ

え!?
あの…今日から入った
秋月大和です!!
宜しくお願いします!!

ふ――ん……
そうなんだ

カチッ

……ハイ

いらっしゃいませ～～～～……

……

……

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Hiroyuki Tamakoshi

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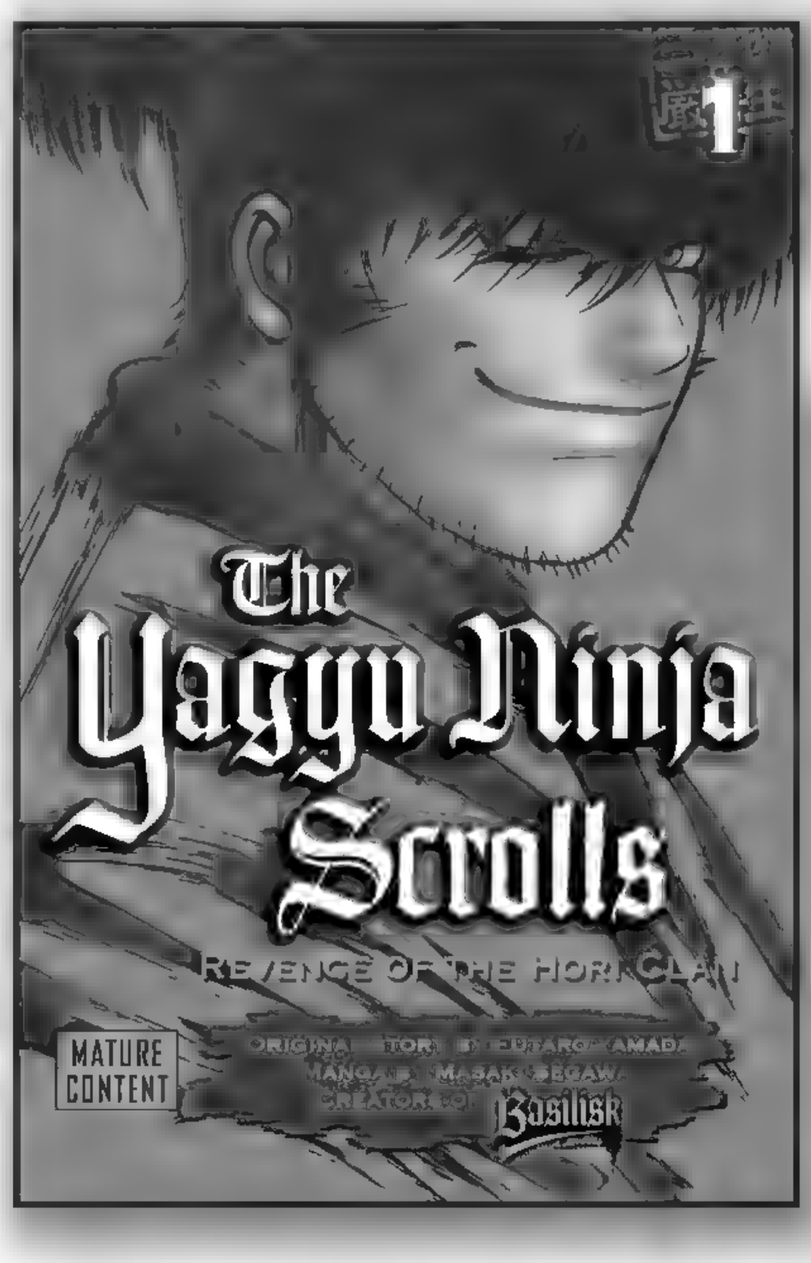

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Suzuka 11

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SUZUKA
#96 The Secret

OH, NO. I'M SORRY FOR TAKING UP SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME.

THANKS... ...FOR COMING OUT HERE TO SEE ME SO MANY TIMES.

THANKS.

OKAY.

TOMOR-ROW IS A HOLIDAY, SO I'D LIKE TO VISIT YOUR FAMILY'S HOME.

WHAT...?

IS THIS ABOUT YOUR SHOES?

I'LL PICK YOU UP AT YOUR APARTMENT AT ELEVEN.

OH YEAH? WOW, THIS IS GETTING PRETTY SERIOUS!

YEAH...

YEAH.

HE'S GOING TO VISIT MY PARENTS TOMOR-ROW.

HE WANTS ME TO COME ALONG.

I HAVE TO MAKE IT TO THE INTER-HIGH MEET, SO I CAN GET MY OWN PAIR OF CUSTOM SHOES!!

I'VE GOTTA WORK HARDER, TOO!

...?

.....

HUH?

OH, IT'S NOTH-ING!

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY SO QUIET?

WHAT...!?

AH... HEY...

GO CHANGE, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT THE GATE.

SHE'S SURE ACTING WEIRD.

カツ!ン!. CLOP

カツ!ン!. CLOP

WELL...

THAT'S NOTHING NEW...

THE FOL-
LOWING
DAY

AH THIS SUCKS, I'VE GOT THE DAY OFF, BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO DO.

WHEN IS ASAHINA GONNA BE DONE TALKING ABOUT THOSE STUPID SHOES.

YAMATO-KUN. WILL YOU PUT SOME FUEL IN THE HEATER PLEASE!?

SLIDE

ガラッ

OKAY!

IT'S SO NICE OUT TODAY.

I WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE WITH HER...

カラン!
CLOPPA

SHE'S RIGHT...

ARE YOU GONNA MAKE ME GO TO THE INTER-HIGH ALONE THIS YEAR, TOO?

I'VE GOTTA MAKE IT INTO THE INTER-HIGH WITH HER...!

FALUMP

I SHOULDN'T BE SITTING AROUND LIKE THIS.

HEY!

KALANK

KALANK

KALANK

WHAT ARE YOU DOING LOAFING AROUND.

IF YOU'RE THAT BORED, I GUESS I COULD LET YOU CARRY MY STUFF AGAIN.

I'M BUSY.

SHUT UP.

WHAT-EVER...

WELL, YOU SURE DON'T LOOK IT.

I'M JUST TAK-ING A BREAK RIGHT NOW.

.....

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

ANY PROG-RESS AT ALL?

SO...

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOU AND SASAOKA-SAN AFTER THAT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

NOT REALLY.

SAME AS USUAL.

HE'S GOING TO THE STATES ON A BUSI-NESS TRIP.

SO, I CAN'T REALLY BOTHER HIM RIGHT NOW.

REALLY? WOW, HE'S A BUSY GUY.

YEAH, HE'S THE EXACT OPPO-SITE OF YOU.

WHAT IF HE GETS SENT TO WORK IN THE STATES AGAIN?

.....

.....

THEN I'LL BE IN THE SAME SITUATION AS YOU.

WELL...

SUZUKA-CHAN WILL BE GONE...

...COME SEPTEMBER, RIGHT?

WHAT...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...?

GONE?

.....

UH...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY-THING...

OH...

DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU?

I HEARD SHE WAS REALLY EXCITED ABOUT IT SO I JUST ASSUMED THAT SHE'D TOLD YOU...

H-HEY!!

S-SORRY!! JUST PRE-TEND WE NEVER HAD THIS CON-VERSATION, OKAY.

WHAT THE HELL?

.....

CLOPPA

CLOPPA

CLOPPA

FWIPPA

...KUN

YAMATO...

ARE YOU...

.....

...GOING SOMEWHERE IN SEPTEMBER...?

.....!

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?

UH... WELL...I HEARD THIS RUMOR...

UH...

W-WHO TOLD YOU THAT?

IT'S TRUE THEN?

SO...

YEAH...

.....

I'M THINK-ING ABOUT...

...STUDYING ABROAD IN AMERICA...

AMERICA...?

WHAT...?

SO...

THEY'RE GONNA BE COVERING TUITION AND EXPENSES, TOO...

SASAOKA-SAN'S FIRM IS TALKING TO A FEW ATH-LETES...

...IT WASN'T JUST THE SHOES.

THAT'S ACTUALLY WHAT MY MEETING WITH SASAOKA-SAN WAS ABOUT.

.....!

I PROBABLY WON'T... ...BE ABLE TO BE IN THE INTER-HIGH THIS YEAR...

ASAHIYU BATHS

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU...?

DIDN'T YOU THINK I MIGHT WANNA KNOW?

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME!?

W-WELL...

STILL...!!

YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST TOLD ME WHAT WAS GOING ON.

I MEAN... AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD GO TO THE INTER-HIGH TOGETHER!

WELL, THAT WAS BEFORE I KNEW THAT I MIGHT BE GOING ABROAD.

THAT'S NOT TRUE!!

SO, I GUESS YOU JUST DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ME, HUH?

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW...!!

I CARE ABOUT YOU A LOT BUT...

. . . . . !!

THERE'S JUST A LOT GOING ON.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN!!?

AH...!!

FINE, WHATEVER. HAVE FUN.

HEY...!!

YAMATO-KUN!!

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 12